THE NEW
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China-baiter wins Taiwan presidential elections

Ruling party candidate Lai Ching-te emerged victorious in Taiwan's presidential elections on Saturday. His opponents conceded defeat. At stake is peace and stability of the island that Beijing claims as its own and to be retaken by force if necessary. Lai and incumbent President Tsai Ing-wen reject China's sovereignty claims over Taiwan, a former Japanese colony that split from the mainland amid civil war in 1949 | **PTI**

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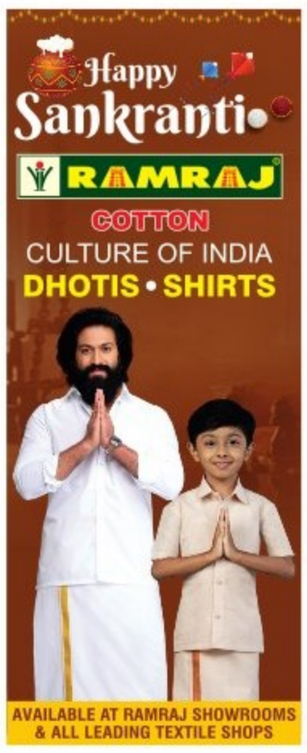
Metro connectivity increased from 5 cities in 2014 to 22 cities now



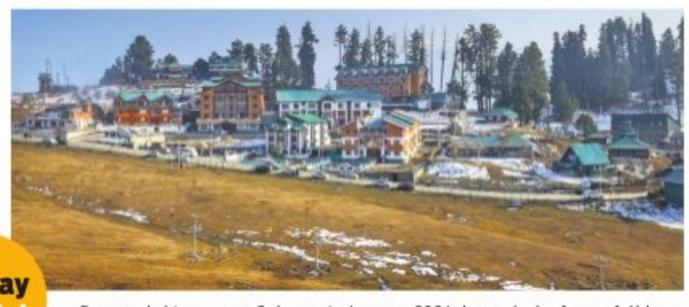
Snowless hills take life out of winter sport

INDRANEEL DAS @ Chennai

FOR winter sports, heavily reliant on weather, climate change is posing a hurdle to its dear existence. Gulmarg, one of India's best winter sports destinations, is facing such a threat. The snow-draped slopes have been replaced by barren brown ones.

The skiing industry, that had seen a boom in the last three years after COVID, suddenly has been caught in this relentless fury of nature. It is the middle of January, yet the region has not seen enough snowfall that would be conducive for the snow sport. This is set to lead to the postponement of the biggest Winter Sports event in the country — the Khelo India Winter Games.

Sunday Special



Deserted ski resort at Gulmarg in January 2024 due to lack of snowfall | PTI

Rauf Tramboo, Winter Games Association of Jammu and Kashmir, who is the competition manager for the Games, explained the scenario. "We have been hosting the Khelo India Winter Games for the last three years. This year too we were planning to host chapter four of Khelo India in February," he said, adding that they even finalised the dates as February 2-6. But because there has not been enough snowfall, Tramboo felt the hosting of the Games needs to be postponed.

"In our recent meetings with the Sports Authority of India and the Sports Ministry and the federation and our associations, we have addressed these problems," he said.

Tramboo consulted the meteorological departments across J&K and even in the Centre and found out that snowfall is likely only in the third or fourth week of January. In his opinion, the Khelo India Games need to be postponed.

Gulmarg is not alone. Other destinations like Solang Valley in Himachal Pradesh and Auli in Uttarakhand, too, are facing the same predicament.

Ludar Thakur, president of the Winter Games Association of Himachal Pradesh, said it had been very bad this season. Some of the skiers were even forced to look for better venues out of the country. "Around 10 skiers have gone abroad for training," he said. Apart from Europe, Kazakhstan is a favoured destination because of relaxed visa norms. P13

Illegal schools must be shut now: Edu dept

PURAN CHOUDHARY @ Bengaluru

THE Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) has ordered illegal schools to shut immediately, and directed block education officers (BEOs) to publish details of all private schools that are registered and recognised under their jurisdiction to help parents and other stakeholders.

A January 9 circular issued by the department states that after one week, officials concerned should conduct a site inspection and send a report to the BEO on whether such schools are closed. "Schools conducting advanced classes for Grades 6 to 10 will be given a final opportunity of 45 days to obtain permission in accordance with the set rules. If the management continues with classes, it shall be treated as unauthorised and students will be barred from the Students Achievement Tracking System (SATS)," warned the circular.

To not jeopardise the children's future, the department had warned schools and allowed for fresh registration if they had appropriate affiliations.

The circular also warned BEOs and DDPIs that if any illegal, unauthorised schools are found in their jurisdiction, action will be taken against them. P5

Kharge named INDIA chairperson, Nitish playing hard to get

Oppn meeting proposes JD(U) chief as bloc convenor, but party claims he is not in the race for the position

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

CONGRESS president Mallikarjun Kharge was named chairperson of the Opposition INDIA bloc on Saturday after leaders of its 14-party coordination committee held a virtual meeting to discuss seat sharing for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. Though Bihar Chief Minister and JD(U) chief Nitish Kumar's name was proposed as convenor, a final decision will be taken after consulting all parties, sources told this newspaper.

At least 10 leaders of the bloc met virtually and discussed various aspects of the alliance and the preparations for the Lok Sabha elections, due in April-May. Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee, SP head Akhilesh Yadav and Shiv Sena (UBT)'s Uddhav Thackarey skipped the meeting.

Speaking to this newspaper, CPI general secretary D Raja said all parties were in agreement that the Congress should hold the position of chairperson since it is the largest party within the bloc, while the convenor post should go to a non-Congress leader.

"All the leaders including Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi suggested Nitish's name as convenor. It was unanimous," said Raja, adding that the final call would be taken after consulting Mamata and Akhilesh. Apart from Raja, Sonia, Rahul, Kharge, NCP chief Sharad Pawar, AAP's Arvind Kejriwal and CPM's Sitaram Yechury and a few others attended the meet.

According to a leader, JD(U)'s Sanjay Jha and Lalan Singh said leaders from other parties should be considered for the post of convenor as Nitish is not an aspirant. "Nitish suggested the name of RJD leader Lalu Prasad Yadav for the convenor post. Kharge will consult Akhilesh and Mamata and arrive at a decision soon," said the leader. Nitish's reluctance to accept the convenor post surprised many as the party had been pressuring the bloc for it.

Speaking to the media, Pawar asserted that there was no dispute among the INDIA bloc over appointing its convenor, but said there was no need to project any face for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls.

According to Raja, allies were advised to conclude seat sharing as early as possible. "There is a sense of urgency as we are aware that time is running out. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin said seat-sharing talks will be done in the state after Pongal," said Raja. Though Kharge posted on X that "Everyone is happy that the seat-sharing talks are progressing positively," fissures were apparent with the absence of the TMC and SP.

Seat share in Bengal, UP rocky

Trinamool sources said Mamata's no-show was due to her prior engagements. Uddhav's party had told the bloc about his unavailability. But on seat share, Cong, TMC, SP are on shaky ground

Kejriwal meets Kharge

AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal held a meeting with Congress leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi. In Punjab, Cong-AAP seat sharing may not take place, said sources | P9

Kejriwal gets fourth ED summons

ANUP VERMA @ New Delhi

THE Enforcement Directorate (ED) has issued its fourth summons to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, asking him to appear before the probe agency on January 18 for questioning in connection with the money laundering case related to the now-scrapped Delhi excise policy 2021-22, officials said on Saturday.

Calling the summonses illegal, Kejriwal ignored three of them so far. The latest one comes as he is set to begin his three-day visit to Goa on January 18 to take stock of his party's preparations for the Lok Sabha polls. Asked if Kejriwal would appear before the ED this time, Delhi environment minister Gopal Rai said the party is consulting legal advisors and would act according to their counsel.

Addressing a presser, Rai accused the BJP-led Central government of misusing the ED to stop Kejriwal from campaigning. "The ED is a constitutional body. Its notice was leaked to the media before it reached the chief minister. This is not the work of a constitutional body. It is the BJP's work," Rai charged.

EXPRESS READ

Noted classical singer Prabha Atre dies at 92

Pune: Renowned classical singer **Dr Prabha Atre** passed away following a cardiac arrest at the age of 92 here on Saturday. Atre, a torch-bearer of the Kirana Gharana of Hindustani classical music, had been honoured with all three Padma awards.

CCB raids BTC, arrests 66 bookies, seizes ₹3 cr cash

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

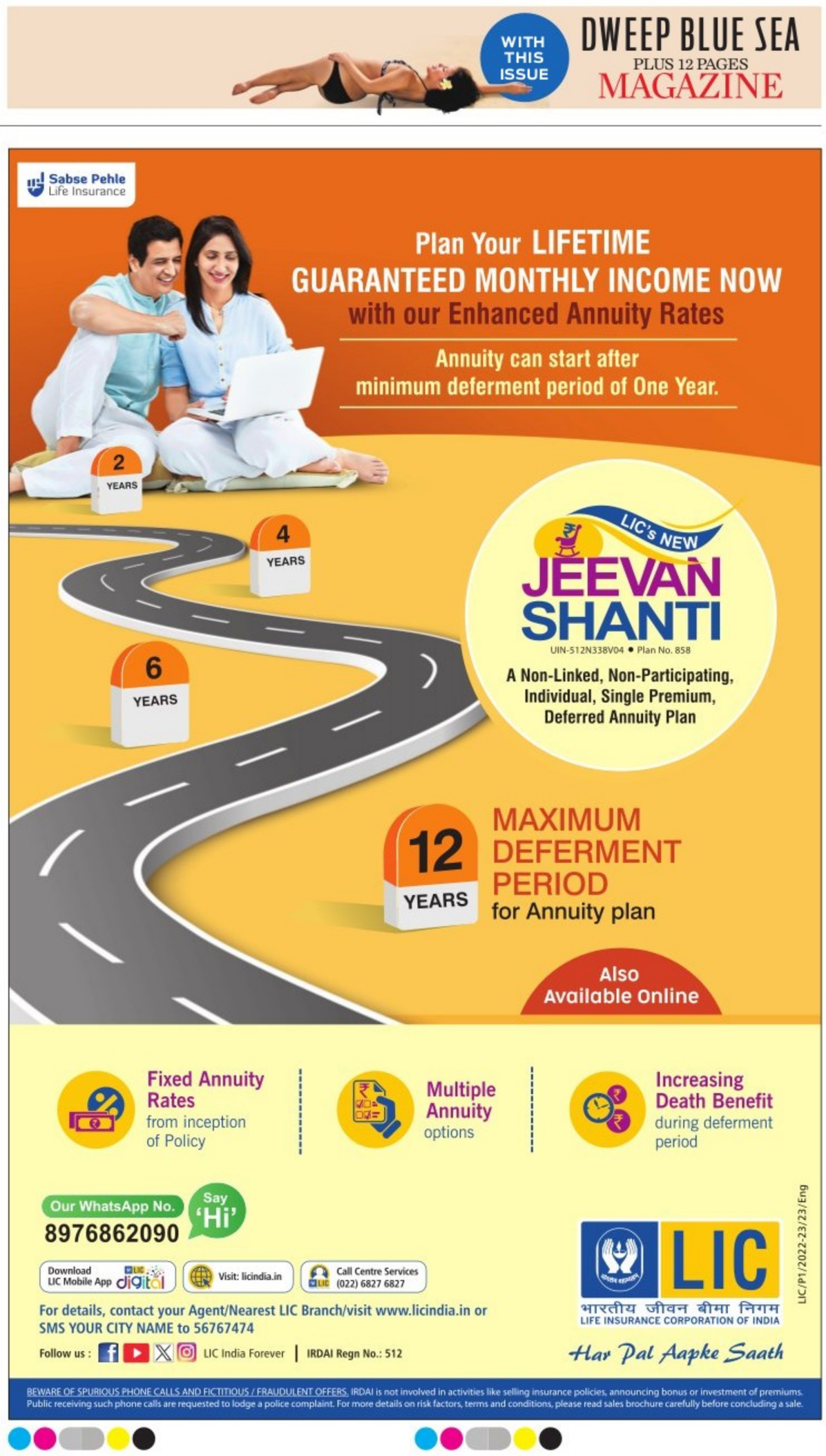
NEARLY 66 bookies were arrested from the Bangalore Turf Club (BTC) early on Saturday morning, following complaints of irregularities, including illegal betting, tickets being sold at higher prices, tax evasion and cheating. The search operation by CCB sleuths attached to the Special Enquiry Squad started at bookie counters on Friday afternoon and concluded around 1 am on Saturday.

All the 66 bookies were produced before the jurisdictional High Grounds police station and later released on station bail. The police seized Rs 3.47 crore unaccounted cash and documents, which are being scrutinised. Notices have been issued to all the 66 bookies, asking them to furnish documents pertaining to the seized cash.

"In all, 75 bookies were involved in illegal horse race betting. While 66 were arrested, nine are absconding. 55 mobile phones were recovered and will be sent to FSL for examination," said an officer, who was part of the raid. CONTINUEDON: P5

BTC has nothing to do with the raids, which were conducted on 26 licensed bookies

Arvind Raghavan, BTC Chairman and senior steward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ALMANAC TODAY

Sunday: 14/01/2024 **Year:** Shobhakruta **Ayana:** Dakshinayana
Ritu: Himantha **Masa:** Pushya **Paksha:** Shukla **Tithi:** Thrutheeya 12.05 pm
Nakshatra: Dhanishta 2.40 pm **Moon in Meena Rashi** **Rahukaala:** 04:30 pm to 06:00pm
Gulikakala: 03:00 pm to 04:30 pm **Yamaganda:** 12:00 pm to 01:30 pm

WEATHER | MIN 17°C | MAX 30°C | FORECAST Mostly cloudy

Sunrise 6.45 am | Sunset 6.11 pm | Moonrise 9.16 am | Moonset 9.15 pm

Kannada in Google Lookout

The app converts images, videos into text and then turns the text into speech

SUNIL PATIL @ Belagavi

THE greens of the lush pastures, the pinks and reds of flowers, the blue of the skies and the colours of the world we live in are either a blur or simply absent in the eyes of the visually disabled. While they are shut from the hues of the world, keeping themselves updated of the things happening around them is impossible too. To bring the world to their fingertips, and to enable Kannada-speaking, visually disabled listen to Kannada newspapers and books, Siddalingeshwar Ingalagi from Bailhongal, Belagavi has striven hard for two years with Google. His efforts have not gone waste as Google is finally including Kannada in its 'Lookout Assisted Vision' Android app.

The 32-year-old Ingalagi, himself visually disabled, is a government employee who works as an Account Assistant at the taluk panchayat office in Bailhongal. He is known in the little town for his exceptional skills in handling technical infrastructure and software designed for helping visually impaired carry out their daily chores, like normal individuals. He went a step ahead when he contacted Google to provide their smart applications in regional languages, making them useful for the visually impaired in the country.

Setting out on a mission to include Kannada in the app, he contacted Google through the Google Disability Support Desk, while tweeting repeatedly on X and tagging the Google team. After two years of persistent effort, Google Disability Support team included Kannada in the 'Lookout' app on August 17, 2023. Ingalagi was a regular user of the app, but he knew that Kannada and other regional languages should be included to make the lives of people like him better.

The 'Lookout Assisted Vision' app can be used in smartphones that are equipped with a back camera. It converts images and videos into text and then converts the text into speech using the 'Text to Speech' (TTS) tool. The application throws open a window to the outside world for the visually impaired and enables them to listen to newspapers, books, know the denomination of currency notes and scripts on computers. The app was initially available only in English, Hindi and other widely used languages. Now, with Ingalagi's efforts, Kannada too has been included.

Speaking to *The New Sunday Express*, he said there are over two lakh visually impaired people in Karnataka. "I hope the inclusion of Kannada in the 'Lookout' app will ease their lives and help them accomplish their daily targets. It will now help them lead a self-reliant life," he said.

EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

The app throws open a window to the outside world for the visually impaired and enables them to listen to newspapers, books and know the denomination of currency notes

– Siddalingeshwar Ingalagi

'FROM DUST TO DIGNITY': JUSTICE PATIL'S JOURNEY IS TIME WELL SPENT

PURAN CHOUDHARY @ Bengaluru

FROM travelling on a bullock cart to school, 32km from home, to pursuing law in a defunct prison, to embarking on a journey and becoming a judge of India's apex court, Justice Shivaraj V Patil is a man made of sheer determination and integrity. Over the last 43 years spent in the public eye, Justice Patil brought honour to all the positions he held, be it principal in the college where he studied, an advocate in the High Court, judge in various other courts, Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court, and ultimately as judge in the Supreme Court. However, his journey to attain this stature was a challenging one, filled with many life lessons and several hard-earned victories.

In his autobiography which will be released on January 21, 'Time Spent and Distance Travelled', Patil takes the readers on a conscientious journey and illustrates how one can overcome adversity with perseverance. In five broad chapters, the former judge talks about his early years, legal career trajectory, productive retirement, blessed family and memorable moments throughout his lifetime, spent with peers, gurus and grandchildren.

With limited resources and being born into a humble family of three sisters in Gulbarga (now Kalaburagi), Patil explains how Devadurga taluk of Raichur district was the most backward region of the Hyderabad-Karnataka region. His village, Mandakal, was the poorest of all and lacked amenities. It did not have electricity until the 1970s, and children often studied under a kerosene lantern in the late hours.

In his prologue, he talks about embracing hard work, integrity and humility as qualities. Along with these, divine grace guided him in life. With his unwavering commitment to succeed, Patil wore only one shirt for six months when he was in Grade 7. He diligently washed it at night and wore it the next morning, remembering and following his father's principles. Some days, he didn't even have enough to fill his stomach.

1. Justice Shivaraj V Patil receives the then President APJ Abdul Kalam in the Supreme Court in 2004; **2.** With the then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh after receiving The Law Day Award on November 26, 2005; **3.** Justice Anshuman Singh, the then Governor of Rajasthan, administers oath as Chief Justice to Justice Patil in Jaipur on January 22, 1999; **4.** Justice Patil with family members in his Supreme Court chamber after swearing in as a judge on March 15, 2000 | PICS FROM THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY

Patil's autobiography is as raw as it gets. "I mention all these (my struggles) not to boast about my success but to illustrate that our ambitions need not be limited by the circumstances of our birth. I offer my life story as a humble road map for those who might find it useful," he writes. He adds that the legal fraternity would find it particularly useful to read about his conduct with clients, colleagues and litigants in court, and cases that he heard.

In his 400+ pages of memoirs, he notes down 10 commandments that would help new judges at the cusp of their careers. A few that stood out were, 'To be a good judge, one must first be a good human being', 'Use technology but don't become its slave; don't surrender your creativity, innovation and original thinking' and 'Your oath is your religion, be true to it; your conscience is your watchman, obey it'.

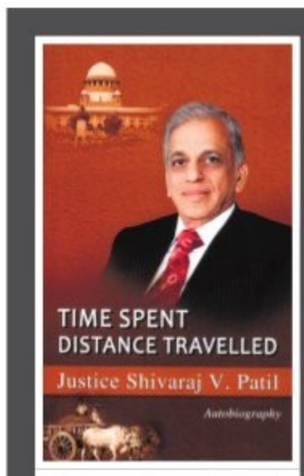
Shivamurthy Shivacharya Mahaswamiji of Sri Taralabalu Jagadguru Brihanmath, Sirigere, was amazed by the artistic mind of Justice Patil. One noticeable aspect of the latter was his suggestion to the designer of his biography. He proposed that the cover page of the book should include two images -- the bullock cart at the bottom and the edifice of the Supreme Court of India at the top. "They figuratively cover his life achievement, from a poor village boy who went to school seated in a bullock cart to become an esteemed judge. The entire contents of the book are covered by these two images at a glance," says Shivamurthy Mahaswamiji. He adds that Patil climbed his judicial career step by step.

Post his retirement from the SC, Patil contributed significantly to the National Human Rights Commission as chairman, leading a committee for the Prevention of Child Marriage Act, 2G Spectrum, identifying lapses in the allocation of 2G spectrum to telecom operators, and Karnataka Lokayukata in August 2011.

MN Venkatachaliah, former Chief Justice of India, describes Patil's book as a "difficult personal chronicle" and a "document particularly marked by the absence of the parade of ego that most autobiographies exhibit". He adds that Patil's career was shaped by two significant events in his personal life -- one was "God-ordained" when he shifted his law practice from Kalaburagi to Bengaluru. He decided the same on January 4, 1979, at Shree Sharanabasveshwara Temple and news of becoming a judge was also received in the same shrine. The other significant decision was when he declined the invitation from from then chief minister Veerendra Patil to contest the assembly elections from Devadurg legislative constituency.

"The Indian Judiciary had thus this unique gift of a noble and learned judge," says the former CJI. He concludes by saying that he hopes someday, someone will make a list of the best judicial autobiographies, and the one written by Justice Shivaraj Patil will find its place in it.

Having garnered multiple accolades over the decades, the 84-year-old says he was born in the 20th century and is living in the 21st century, acting as a bridge between the two. He wishes to continue adapting to the changes and never stop learning.



The cover of the autobiography

The autobiography will be released on January 21 in Bengaluru, in the presence of Jagadguru Dr Shivamurthy Shivacharya Mahaswamiji, Jagadguru Shree Shivaratrideshikendra Mahaswamiji, Justice MN Venkatachalaiah and Chief Guest Justice RF Nariman

Justice Shivaraj V Patil

Students come up with ideas at 'Brand B'luru' Youth Ideathon

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE inter-school Ideathon 2023 for 'Brand Bengaluru', encouraged youngsters to suggest ideas for the benefit of the city. Among the ideas were- Integrating ambulances to traffic signals wirelessly for seamless movement, pink booths in public places to help menstruating women and separate disposal of floral and vegetable waste. Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar promised to implement the same.

Addressing the students he said, the ideas were excellent and that he would try to bring it to life. He opined that school students have come up with great suggestions for Brand Bengaluru. Moreover, the inter-school Ideathon 2023 and Youth Leadership Summit 2023 have been going on for a month in the city. In the first stage, 50 schools were selected from among all applicants. Further, in the second stage the number of schools narrowed down to 25. Eventually, 7 schools were shortlisted for the finale held at Hotel Conrad, Bengaluru.

WINNERS OF 2023 AWARDS

Sachchida Nand Tripathi, Professor, Sustainable Energy Engineering, IIT-Kanpur (Engineering and Computer Science)

Jahnavi Phalkey, Founding Director, Science Gallery Bengaluru (Humanities)

Arun Kumar Shukla, Professor, Biological Sciences and Bioengineering, IIT-Kanpur (Life Sciences)

Bhargav Bhatt, Fernholz Joint Professor at the Institute for Advanced Study and Princeton University (Mathematical Sciences)

Mukund Thattai, Professor, Biochemistry, Biophysics and Bioinformatics, National Centre for Biological Sciences, Bengaluru (Physical Sciences)

Karuna Mantena, Professor, Political Science, Columbia University (Social Sciences).

'Steady funding will change research in India'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

BRINGING scientific research into mainstream conversation is the need of the hour. Recognition of scientists and steady funding will transform India's research environment and ensure that the scientific environment of India is strengthened, said Infosys Science Foundation President, Kris Gopalakrishnan, on Saturday.

He was speaking at the felicitation ceremony of the Infosys Prize 2023, by Infosys Science Foundation (ISF) ,where six individuals, two hailing from Bengaluru, were awarded for their impactful work across disciplines and scientific research in India. Gopalakrishnan also added that India currently invests only 0.7 percent of its GDP in R&D and increasing this to 3 per cent will yield rich dividends.

Infosys CEO Salil Parekh, businessman TV Mohandas Pai, Nobel Laureate Brian Schmidt,and Infosys co-founders NR Narayana Murthy and others, with the annual award winners Karuna Mantena, Arun Kumar Shukla, Jahnavi Phalkey, Mukund Thattai and Sachchida Nand Tripathi, in Bengaluru on Saturday | EXPRESS

He said that both public and private entities need to contribute to this. Speaking about the growth of technology and its applications in real world scenarios, Gopalkrishna said, "2023 was the year when AI went mainstream. It was democratised and its access was available to ordinary individuals. Generative AI is disrupting businesses everywhere. It also helps innovation in research and address real world problems."

The winners were conferred the prize for across six fields — Engineering and Computer Science, Humanities, Life Sciences, Mathematical Sciences, Physical Sciences and Social Sciences. Scientists were felicitated with a pure gold medal, a citation, and a prize purse of USD 100,000.

Nobel Laureate in Physics 2011, former Vice Chancellor and Distinguished Professor of Astronomy at Australian National University, Brian Schmidt was the chief guest for the event. Addressing the gathering, he said, "India's contribution to the world of knowledge is growing quickly. The awardees, who cover the breadth of the academy, are world leaders in research, and its translation for the benefit of humanity. The world needs such knowledge to help us live peacefully and sustainably on a planet that isn't getting any bigger, even though humanity's footprint is."

The winners were chosen from 224 nominations. The event was attended by NK Narayana Murthy, Infosys co-founder, trustee of the foundation.

EXPRESS READ

CET-2024 registrations suspended temporarily

Bengaluru: Karnataka Examination Authority announced temporary suspension of online registrations for CET-2024, from January 13 to 17. The Department of School Education informed that the interruption is due to the migration of the Student Achievement Tracking System (SATS) database to a newly allotted enhanced database.

D'gere secures sixth in cleanliness ranking in K'taka

Davanagere: Davangere leaped to the sixth position in the Cleanliness ranking under the Cities of Karnataka category. City Corporation Commissioner Renuka said Davanagere achieved sixth position owing to the whole hearted co-operation of employees and residents.She thanked the public and urged to co-operate to make it stand first in the future.

BUDCA to host first int'l chess tourney

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

BENGALURU Urban District Chess Association (BUDCA) announced its first International Grandmaster Open Chess Tournament with a prize pool of Rs 50 lakhs to the winners in Bengaluru on Saturday. The tournament will be held in Kanteerava Indoor Stadium from January 18 to January 26 in collaboration with the Government of Karnataka, supported by the Karnataka State Chess Association (KSCA), All India Chess Federation (AICF), and International Chess Federation (FIDE).

Mascot Chessie being unveiled during the announcement of the first Bangalore International Grandmaster Open Chess Tournament | EXPRESS

During the press conference, Chief Patron of the tournament MLC K Govindaraj, who is also the political secretary to the Chief Minister, announced that the tournament would be inaugurated by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah along with Indian Chess Grandmaster Vishwanathan Anand on January 18. He appreciated BUDCA for its vision and dedication to inspiring a new generation of chess enthusiasts.

The tournament will happen across three categories– A, B and C hosting 50 grandmasters and 2,250 selected players from India and 20 other countries.

Soumya, President of BUDCA announced a prize pool of Rs 50 lakhs to the winners. She also informed the association's plans to host chess tournaments in around 100 schools across Bengaluru and Karnataka, nurturing a new generation of chess enthusiasts. The association also scheduled a Blitz Tournament on January 22 for players of all ages. The official mascot for the tournament 'CHESSIE' -- a blue elephant with a crown and dressed with chess blocks was also unveiled.

A 19-year-old man from Bhadravathi has been sentenced to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment and fined Rs 1.10 lakh for sexually assaulting a 15-year-old minor, who later became pregnant. The court also ordered a compensation of Rs 3 lakh for the victim

CITY GETS INTELLIGENT TRAFFIC SYSTEM FOR SAFE MOBILITY

Facilitates data-driven decisions for effective vehicle management

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

TO provide insights into the city's traffic scenario, the city traffic police have introduced ASTraM (Actionable intelligence for Sustainable Traffic Management), a traffic engine to enhance awareness, enabling data-driven decisions for effective traffic management. The system has features including congestion alerts, incident reporting via BOT mobile applications, special event management and dashboard analytics.

The system delivers real-time congestion alerts to jurisdictional traffic officials in a frequency of 15 minutes which is integrated with the e-attendance system and the alerts are communicated to junction and division officers.

The Dashboard analytics analyse and quantify traffic volume, congestion length and vehicle count, facilitating data-driven decisions for traffic management. Through the BOT service, field incidents from authorised sources are reported, ensuring that relevant information is shared with map services, offering real-time updates to the public. It also maintains a record of significant city events, providing a spatial overview of the traffic situation to enhance response management and aid in resource allocation and planning alternative measures. The Traffic Management Centre (TMC) would centrally monitor these events, ensuring timely dissemination of information for prompt action.

Ambulance Tracking Application will also be implemented to enhance coordinated ambulance movements. It involves continuous monitoring by the control room. The application triggers an alert if an ambulance is delayed for more than 120 seconds in traffic, providing the control room with the shortest route and current traffic conditions. The app features an SOS button for drivers to request immediate intervention.

Ten drone cameras will monitor traffic during peak morning and evening hours. The live drone feeds are displayed on TMC's video wall.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and DCM DK Shivakumar visit a stall during a National Road Safety Month programme at Kanteerava Stadium on Saturday | ALLEN EGENUS J

DKS: AI WILL MONITOR TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

TO IMPROVE traffic monitoring and curb violations, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar announced the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to oversee traffic-related offenses. "Over 6,000 driving licences have been cancelled in the past three years. But the focus should be on the alarming rate of accidents involving two-wheelers. It is important that two-wheeler riders wear helmets without fail," he said during a National Road Safety Month programme held at Kanteerava Stadium on Saturday. He urged the public to prioritise life and adhere to traffic rules.

Shivakumar said to mitigate traffic congestion in the city due to the rapid increase in both the city's population and vehicular numbers, a comprehensive strategy is being devised by incorporating traffic management models from other nations.

On eviction of street vendors, Shivakumar clarified that this was being done following a high court order. "Footpaths are for pedestrians. Street vendors should conduct business at designated locations and the government is open to providing financial assistance to them," he added.

Over 6,000 driving licences have been cancelled in the past three years. But the focus should be on the alarming rate of accidents involving two-wheelers
– DK Shivakumar, Deputy Chief Minister

Fake Mysore Sandal Soap unit busted

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

A UNIT manufacturing and selling fake Mysore Sandal Soap, whose only authorised manufacturer is Karnataka government-owned KSDL, has been busted in Hyderabad.

According to a statement issued by the Karnataka Industries Minister's office, goods worth around Rs2 crore, including fake products and carton boxes used for packing, were found during the operation. A complaint has been filed against the accused based in Hyderabad at the Malakpet police station. Twenty cartons of three soap packs weighing 150 gm (1,800 Pieces), 47 cartons of each soap 75 gm (9,400 pieces), empty Mysore Sandal Soap packing boxes for 150 gm soaps(400 pieces) and empty Mysore Sandal Soap packing boxes for 75 gm soap (400 pieces) have been seized, the release said.

Some of the fake Mysore Sandal Soap products that were seized in Hyderabad

Industries Minister MB Patil, who is also KSDL chairman, received information about fake Mysore Sandal Soap being supplied to the Hyderabad market and directed KSDL Managing Director Dr Prashant to take appropriate action.

"Fake soaps were sold in some areas of Hyderabad. However, there was no proper information about who was supplying them. Then KSDL staff themselves bought the product worth Rs 5 lakh and tested it for originality. However, it was confirmed to be fake," the release stated.

The KSDL staff placed an order to purchase Rs 25 lakh worth of soaps and on the pretext of transporting it in a vehicle, they reached the spot where manufacturing was being done, stated Prashant.

Patil said steps will be taken to ensure that the culprits are punished.

Diamonds worth ₹7 cr seized at KIA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), Bengaluru zone, recently intercepted two men at the Kempegowda International Airport and seized 8,053 carats of natural and lab-grown diamonds worth Rs 7.77 crore, which were concealed in chocolate boxes.

The two men from Chikkaballapur in their mid-30's deal with petty gemstones. They were handed over the diamonds at Mumbai airport to be taken to Dubai. The DRI, on credible information, intercepted them at KIA on January 10 when they were about to board the Indigo flight to Dubai. "Search of their check-in baggage resulted in the recovery of natural and lab-grown diamonds weighing 8,053 carats valued at Rs 7.77 crore and assorted foreign currency worth Rs 4.62 lakh," sources said.

Further, based on their interrogation, information was shared with DRI, Hyderabad. They intercepted two other passengers and seized diamonds weighing 5,569 carats worth around Rs 6.03 crore and assorted foreign currency worth Rs 9.83 lakh from them. The four have been arrested under the Customs Act.

EXPRESS READ

10-YR-OLD BOY DIES IN WATER SUMP

Bengaluru: A 10-year-old boy died after allegedly falling inside a water sump near Abbigere in Gangammanagudi police station limits. The incident happened around 7.30 pm on Friday when there was a power cut. The deceased has been identified as Abdul Basha. His parents are construction labourers. The Gangammanagudi police have registered a case of unnatural death and are investigating if there was any foul play. ENS

Two killed in separate accidents

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

A 29-year-old manager of an online food delivery platform and a food delivery executive died in separate accidents in the city on Saturday.

Anil Kumar, working with Swiggy and a resident of Mathikere, was returning home when he lost control over his two-wheeler and rammed into a road median. The incident happened on the JP Park Tank Bund Road near Akkayyamma Bar at 12.45 am. The Yeshwanthpur Traffic police have registered a case.

In another incident, 32-year-old Rajesh Kumar, employed with Zomato, died when a speeding car knocked down his two-wheeler on Suranjan Das Road at 1 am. Kumar hailed from Uttar Pradesh was residing in Indiranagar. Kumar was immediately rushed to Bowring Hospital where he was declared brought dead. The HAL Airport Traffic police have registered a case.

Paramour, wife kill guard

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE mysterious death of a 35-year-old security guard in the outhouse of an upscale residential complex in HSR Layout second sector has been solved with the arrest of the victim's wife and her paramour.

The victim, identified as Venkataramana Nayak, was murdered after he saw his wife Nandini Bai with her paramour Nithish Kumar. During a verbal altercation, the duo attacked Nayak with a pestle killing him. The woman then called the police control room and stated that her husband died after falling inside the bathroom. The autopsy revealed blunt force trauma on the victim's head.

Nayak, hailing from Sri Sathya Sai district in Andhra Pradesh, was found dead on Tuesday night. The accused, also hailing from the same district, were in a relationship since their school days.

INFANT JESUS CHURCH AND SHRINE ANUAL FEST

6 PM GRAND CAR PROCESSION BLESSED AND COMMENCED BY ARCHBISHOP OF BENGALURU MOST REV. DR. PETER MACHADO BENEDICTION & MASS IN TAMIL AFTER THE CAR PROCESSION

Feast Day Mass Timings

05:45 AM	Tamil	01:00 PM	Kannada
07:00 AM	English	02:00 PM	Malayalam
08:30 AM	Tamil	03:00 PM	Konkani
10:00 AM	Kannada	04:00 PM	English
11:15 AM	Tamil	05:00 PM	Tamil

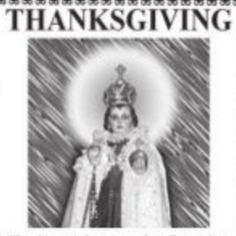
THANKSGIVING

"Trust in the Lord, do good, will give you the desires of your heart" Thank you Infant Jesus for all your blessings, be with us always. **Nirmala, Allen Niveda Nathaniel, Anjan, Lourdmary.**

THANKSGIVING
THE MIRACLE PRAYER
Dear Heart of Jesus. in the past. I have asked for many favors. This time. I ask you this very special favor (mention favor). Take it dear Heart of Jesus, and place it within your own broken heart where your Father sees it. Then in his merciful eyes it will become your favor. not mine.
Amen. Say this prayer for 3 days, promise publication and favor will be granted. no matter how impossible. Never known to fail.
Thank you for the favors, graces and blessings received, seeking continous blessings on my family always
JOSEPH GEORGE

THANKSGIVING

Dear lord thank you for all Favors received. Seeking your graces, blessings and mercies always for me and my family.
JOSEPH GEORGE

THANKSGIVING

Thank you Infant Jesus for all mercies, blessings, and graces received to me and Family let there be peace mind & good health always in my family.
TREESA JOSEPH & FAMILY

THANKSGIVING

Thank you for everything
- KVK Murthy

THANKSGIVING

Thank you for everything
- NAGASHREE SHANBHOGUE

THANKSGIVING

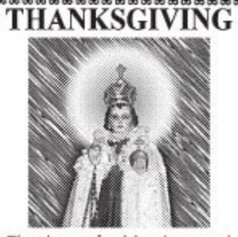
Thanks for favours and blessing received continue to bless us.
RICHARD FLORANCE & FAMILY

THANKSGIVING

Thanks for favours and blessing received continue to bless us.
RICHARD FLORANCE & FAMILY

THANKSGIVING

Thank you Infant Jesus for favours received. Kindly bless us always.
Krishna Kumar and family

THANKSGIVING

Thank you for blessings and favours granted. Seek your blessings always.
NARESH, SHOBHA, PUNIT

THANKSGIVING

Grateful Thanks to Infant Jesus for favours received.
F.M.PRAMILA

THANKSGIVING

Grateful Thanks to Infant Jesus for favours received.
PRATHIBHA & RONNY

THANKSGIVING

Grateful Thanks to Infant Jesus for favours received.
PRAVEEN & FLY

INTENTIONS

Grant our Petitions and Fulfill our Intentions.
PRAVEEN & FLY

INTENTIONS

Grant our Petitions and Fulfill our Intentions.
PRATHIBHA & RONNY

INTENTIONS

Grant our Petitions and Fulfill our Intentions.
F.M.PRAMILA

THANKSGIVING

Grateful Thanks to St. Jude for favours received.
F.M.PRAMILA

THANKSGIVING

Grateful Thanks to Sacred Heart of Jesus for favours received.
F.M.PRAMILA

THANKSGIVING

Grateful Thanks to Mother Mary for favours received. **F.M.PRAMILA**

THANKSGIVING

Thanks for favours received.
P J JACOB AND FAMILY

THANKSGIVING

Thanks for favours received.
PRADEEP JACOB AND ADITI

THANKSGIVING

Great full thanks to infant Jesus and St. Jude.
MARY GRISELDA ANITHA SAGAY

THANKSGIVING

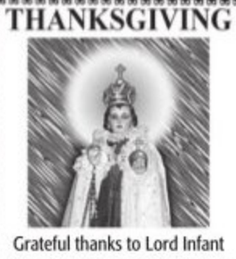
Heavenly father thanks for all the blessings showered on our family, seeking your blessings for our family & my daughter to get a good life partner for her marriage. **M.Veerabhadrappa, Asha, Praveen & Shruti.**

THANKSGIVING

Thanks for favours received.
PREETI JACOB AND DEEPAK JAYARAJAN

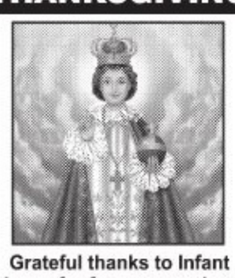
THANKSGIVING

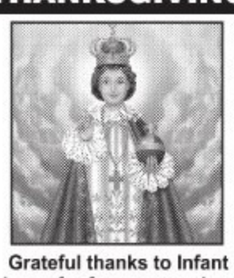
Grateful thanks for all the blessings received, seeking your blessings always.
VANI

THANKSGIVING

Grateful thanks to Lord Infant Jesus for all the favours received. Please bless our family always.
SUDARSHAN AND FAMILY

THANKSGIVING

Thanks for favours and blessing received continue to bless us the favours we seek.
SRINIVAS AND FAMILY

THANKSGIVING

Grateful thanks to Infant Jesus for favours received
CHANDRALEKHA AND FAMILY

THANKSGIVING

Grateful thanks to Infant Jesus for favours received
GIRIJA AND FAMILY

THANKSGIVING

Grateful thanks to Infant Jesus for favours received
NITIN AND FAMILY

THANKSGIVING

Grateful thanks to Infant Jesus for favours received
RATNAKUMARI AND FAMILY

THANKSGIVING

Grateful thanks to Infant Jesus for favours received
SUSEELA AND FAMILY

BJP leader CT Ravi on Saturday said BJP and Narendra Modi are inevitable for the development of the nation. He added that there is a need for convergence of the old and new leaders for the development of the party and to take it to the next generation

TEAM TNSE

PIC: ALLEN EGENUSE J

'REFRAIN FROM BRIBERY... SEEK LOKAYUKTA'S HELP'

THE first and foremost motto of the Karnataka Lokayukta having the constitutional ambition inbuilt is to ensure the 'Right to Life' for every citizen. When the rights of the citizens are affected due to a variety of maladministration or corruption due to the acts of public servants, citizens are not in a position to approach the courts. Therefore, the Lokayukta institution was established in the state as a watch-and-ward body for relief. To fulfil this, the Lokayukta institution is working in a multi-pronged approach to empower citizens to protect their nation first, property second and finally to lead a dignified life. Expecting speedy justice, citizens approach the Lokayukta institution, says Upalokayukta **Justice KN Phaneendra**, former Judge of Karnataka High Court, who shares his thoughts and concerns for the citizens with the editors and staff of *The New Sunday Express*. Excerpts:

What is the jurisdiction of Lokayukta?
There is a lack of awareness among people for what purpose they have to approach Lokayukta or what matters will come under its jurisdiction. Therefore, we are visiting each district in a month and camping there for 3-4 days. We are getting better results because of this. We published the brochures for the first time after the institution was established nearly four decades ago. I did similar work when I was the Director of the Bangalore Mediation Centre. After being appointed as Upalokayukta, I formed a committee of judicial officers, including our Deputy Registrar Channakeshava Reddy MV, which did meticulous work to bring brochures about the Karnataka Lokayukta Act, which deals with maladministration, and the Prevention of Corruption (PC) Act, which deals with corruption. If one reads the brochure, he/she will easily know what Lokayukta is, its scope, powers, responsibilities and the cases we deal with. The brochure also has information on what types of cases we can't take up.

What kind of cases do Lokayukta and Upalokayuktas handle, and against whom are there more complaints?
The jurisdiction is watertight. All IAS, IPS and elected representatives come under the Lokayukta jurisdiction. The other public servants below the cadre of IAS and IPS come under Upalokayukta jurisdiction. Grievances against Tahsildars, Assistant Commissioners, Revenue Inspectors, Sub Registrars and RTOs are the highest numbers.

What cases can't be handled by Lokayukta?
We have no jurisdiction in cases like appealable, review, revision, writ petition or suit. Aggrieved parties have to challenge the judicial orders before the court concerned. For instance, some people come to us to get a partition of their properties. In such cases, we give endorsement to approach the court. In another instance, a woman approached us seeking to get a divorce from her husband. Fifty per cent of cases are like this. Though this gives a good impression that Lokayukta can do anything and everything, it shows a lack of awareness. Many people, who addressed a petition to the President, PM and CM, also mark the same to us. We have to process them, both genuine cases and these are mixed up. There must be an application of mind to segregate them. So those will be allotted to officers for scrutiny. This has become a headache.

How is the institution handling the workload? Can you share the statistics?
There are three posts - one Lokayukta and two Upalokayuktas. The post of second Upalokayukta has been vacant for almost more than 18 months and only one Upalokayukta is handling the work and responsibilities of two Upalokayuktas. Daily, I have to clear around 300 files. There are 1,576 departmental inquiry cases and 18 district judges to deal with those cases. In addition to this, they have to handle the cases of grievances and allegations. The institution is overloaded when compared to the courts. All A, B, C and D staff cadre strength is 1,930 but the working strength is 1,214. The vacant posts are 716. We have requested the state government to fill the vacancies, which is responding positively. Complaints, excluding cases of the Prevention of Corruption Act, as of today, are 18,038, including suo motu cases. Around 5,000 complaints are before Lokayukta and the remaining cases are before Upalokayukta. Miscellaneous cases, which are kept to identify whether they come under our jurisdiction, are 6,291.

Do you think all categories of people are approaching Lokayukta?
In my experience, those who are unable to pay bribes and don't have influence will approach us. The second category of people are principled who are not willing to pay bribes, who believe that they have the right to get the work done. The third category is people who create trouble by filing false complaints against honest officers for not doing their work illegally.

How has corruption changed over time?
As society develops, and with increasing value of properties, the quantum of bribes is also increasing. But what we want to be taken into consideration is the way in which they are taken. Earlier, officers directly took the money. Now, it is not possible as they will be caught, sensing that the money-giver will be followed by the Lokayukta police. Therefore, they are collecting through third parties who are not connected with the matter at all. So he is also caught under the PC Act. That apart, proving the case is becoming more difficult day by day. So, therefore, we have to adopt some other methods to combat this. Lokayukta police are giving a camera, and audio recorder to the complainant to record demands. The PC Act says even proof of mere demand is sufficient though one doesn't receive a bribe. So demand is to be established with reasonable grounds before the court.

EXPRESS Dialogues

You say, the demand is sufficient for proof to try the accused under the PC Act. But, the Karnataka HC quashed the proceedings against former BJP MLA Madal Virupakshappa on the ground that there was no demand and acceptance of a bribe...?
With due respect to the High Court, we have decided to file an appeal against the HC judgment before the Supreme Court.

Despite the Lokayukta raids, several officers are observed holding the same positions within the department. What are your thoughts on this?
We are addressing such cases rigorously. In two instances, we have requested the Chief Secretary and the government to avoid reassigning individuals to the same position or location. The suspension order automatically concludes after six months, a statutory regulation that doesn't require additional approval. However, the practice of placing the same person in the same position should be discontinued as it can influence and intimidate eyewitnesses.

There seems to be a diminishing sense of fear regarding the Lokayukta among the public these days. What could be the reasons for this shift?
It depends on the individual. However, fear is resurfacing and is evident from the increasing number of lodged complaints.

What measures have been implemented to enhance the strength of the Lokayukta?
Certainly, we require infrastructure, staff, and vehicles, especially considering that each inquiry officer manages around 400-500 cases. The government has been approached for these necessities, and there is a positive response. The Chief Secretary has met with the Lokayukta, assuring prompt provision of the required resources. The efficiency of the Lokayukta police wing is in question, as transfers to this division are often perceived as a punishment. The Lokayukta follows specific criteria when selecting officers. The background of police officers undergoes scrutiny upon receiving the transfer list, and those not meeting the Lokayukta's set criteria are sent back.

Why is it a common perception that there is rampant corruption in the state and only lower-ranking officers are targeted rather than senior officers?
Yes. There is rampant corruption because in almost all cases people are making allegations but the law requires evidence. Also, in each and every case of grievance, cases cannot be booked under the PC Act. To substantiate allegations against any officer, we require ample evidence. Unfortunately, many people choose to bypass us and instead fulfil their tasks by paying off officers. As long as bribery persists, officers may continue accepting it. Therefore, collectively, we must impart a lesson to those offering bribes.

While Lokayukta and Upalokayukta are actively combating corruption, what role can society and ordinary citizens play?
Promoting a values-based life is crucial for society. It's essential to refrain from bribery and raise awareness, encouraging people to seek assistance from institutions like Lokayukta. I encountered a situation where a candidate sought help due to a delay in obtaining an OBC certificate from a Tahsildar for applying for a job. Upon intervention, the Tahsildar promptly issued the certificate, even before the complaint was formally lodged. While such assistance can be provided in certain cases, the Upalokayukta's direct involvement in each case is practically not doable given the workload constraints.

Can citizens approach you directly?
My doors are always open to everyone. People can come and meet me directly in the afternoon. People from far-off places like Bidar come to meet us and we can't disappoint them. We must give them the confidence that they have all the right to seek justice and that's enough for them in many cases. But if we don't entertain them, people will lose hope and get frustrated.

Tell us about your district visits...
Whenever I visit districts, I go to hostels, hospitals and jails. I have visited 12 districts so far where we take personal cases of people. It is a week-long process. As we notify about the visit a week in advance and also issue notices to the concerned, 50 per cent of the cases are solved before we go. Also, we legally assist people and conduct awareness programmes for public servants where we highlight the Lokayukta Act, PC Act, punishment if trapped, departmental inquiry and their responsibilities. The next day, we meet judicial officers and explain the Lokayukta Act and seek their cooperation to help people. After all this, we start our surprise visits to hostels, jails, hospitals, schools and other places. At many hostels, we have noticed a lack of proper toilets, drinking water, beds, or hygiene. Recently, we visited a boys' hostel at Koppal, which is not suitable even for animals. I called the DC and CEO and registered a suo motu case, and within a week, the issue was resolved. Many such instances happened in other districts. In jails, too, there are issues including food. We are also liaising with the Karnataka State Legal Services Authority or the District Legal Services Authority. After receiving grievances, we refer eligible people, whose income is below Rs 3 lakh, to Legal Services Authorities for free legal aid. Also, we mark the copies of the grievances to DSLAs who in turn track them, act swiftly, and submit compliance reports too.

Where does Lokayukta stand on conviction rates?
It is about 5-10 per cent and we are taking all measures to achieve maximum conviction by sensitising Lokayukta police officials and prosecutors. The main problem is the nature in which the corruption has taken place. Witnesses have to support the case. In most cases, the complainants turn hostile. Also, lapses in investigation are a reason. Based on the circumstantial evidence, the court can still convict the accused.

What is your take on withdrawing Lokayukta probes after change of government?
It is a policy decision of the government.

Which one is more satisfying, serving as High Court judge or Upalokayukta?
There (HC) it was confined to four corners of the law and had a restricted life. Here, we are free and can mingle with people. We must be free, or else we cannot work for the benefit of people. This (being Upalokayukta) is good as the results are immediate. As I mentioned, just a phone call to Tahsildar helped a youth get an OBC certificate for a job within a few hours. The boy was in tears and he thanked me. Such instances touch our hearts, and are satisfying.

GUARANTEE COMMITTEES

Politicisation of administration can set unhealthy trend

THERE is a fine line between the bureaucracy and the political system that holds the reins of administration. Drafting hundreds of party workers into the system to monitor the implementation of the state government schemes threatens to blur that line unless enough safeguards are put in place.

Earlier this week, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced his government's decision to appoint committees at state, district and assembly constituency levels for effective implementation of the five guarantee schemes. The head of the state-level committee will be given a cabinet minister's rank, while five deputies will get the minister of state rank. In districts, the committees will have a chairman, vice chairman, and 21 members, while in 224 assembly segments, they will have a chairman and 11 members. Office, honorarium, and even sitting fee will be given to the party workers who will be members of the committees for two years.

That means, in one go, over 3,000 Congress workers will be drafted into the system. It is an unprecedented move in Karnataka, perhaps in India, too. It shows the importance the Congress government is giving to the guarantee schemes and party workers ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. Politically speaking, it is a masterstroke. It helps to placate a large number of workers and make them feel that they are part of the system.

But on the flip side, it raises serious questions about the need for putting in place a parallel mechanism. It runs the risk of diluting a well-defined administrative system, allowing a political set-up to undermine the executive. The ministers, secretaries, and the whole administrative machinery, right up to the village level, are mandated to deliver the services and implement the government programmes. In case of any lapses, they can be held accountable. Can such accountability be fixed on political nominees?

The guarantee schemes are implemented for people of the state, irrespective of the political affiliations of the beneficiaries. When such is the case, what is the logic of the government appointing implementation committees consisting of Congress party workers?

Can they be expected to work in a non-partisan manner like the officials in ensuring the implementation of the schemes to people cutting across party lines? Also, how will such a system work in the constituencies represented by non-Congress legislators?

Former Law Minister and BJP legislator S Suresh Kumar termed the move as Congress' 'new rehabilitation scheme', which will be detrimental to the system in many ways. Questioning if the taxpayer's money is meant for the welfare of the state or the Congress workers, the BJP lawmaker says the proposed move gives power without responsibility.

Senior BJP leaders, including its state president BY Vijayendra and former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, have indicated that they will approach the court against the proposed move. The BJP's main contention is misusing taxpayers' money when the development works in the state have come to a standstill and farmers hit by drought are yet to get compensation.

However, the CM maintains it will not be a big burden as the government will allocate Rs 16 crore for the effective implementation of the guarantee schemes. Since the time he took over as the CM for the second time on May 20 last year, the whole focus of the administration has been on implementing the guarantee schemes. "Shakti scheme" — free travel for women in the state corporation buses — was the first of the five schemes to be rolled out on June 11, 2023, while "Yuva Nidhi", to provide financial assistance to unemployed graduates and diploma holders, was the fifth scheme launched on Friday in Shivamogga. The other three guarantee schemes are Anna Bhagya (provides an additional five kg of rice or money), Gruha Lakshmi (financial assistance to women heads of households), and Gruha Jyothi (free electricity of up to 200 units) — which were rolled out in the interim.

To some extent, the CM may be even correct in saying Rs 16 crore may not be much of a burden compared to the enormity of the scheme and the importance the government is attaching to its implementation. For Congress, the 2024 Lok Sabha elections are crucial for its revival at the national level and it has to do well in AICC president Mallikarjuna Kharge's home state. The Congress government in Karnataka is banking heavily on the guarantee schemes.

However, the politicisation of the administrative system is a serious concern. Once such a precedent is set by a government, successive regimes could use it to justify similar practices. Karnataka is fortunate to have a non-partisan bureaucracy with officers committed to implementing government programmes. It is best left untouched.

BOMMAI DEMANDS SIT PROBE INTO GANGRAPE CASES

ENS @ Bengaluru

FORMER chief minister and senior BJP leader **Basavaraj Bommai** on Saturday demanded the government to constitute a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe gangrape cases in the state, since the survivors of sexual assault are not getting justice from the local police.

Speaking to media at the party office, the former CM said the probe should be headed by senior officers, completed within a stipulated time, and a chargesheet filed to ensure maximum punishment for the accused. Bommai questioned why all the accused in the Haveri case have not been arrested so far.

The former CM said the law and order machinery had collapsed in the state and the common people, including women, were unable to move freely. In Bengaluru alone, crime against women has increased by 30% and women were not safe even in rural areas, he said, adding that many cases of crimes against women have been covered up.

Bommai mentioned that a section of the community in Haveri feels that no one can touch it and there has been moral policing everywhere. A woman from Sirsi and another in Hangal were allegedly gangraped, after being beaten up by miscreants in two separate incidents. The Haveri police tried to suppress it, he alleged, adding, "I demanded medical test of the victim. I didn't know whom they were trying to protect. Is there any special rule for the Minority community? Who is behind this incident and who is putting pressure on the police?" the former CM questioned. He accused the Home Minister of not taking stern action against the perpetrators of crimes against women from a minority community.

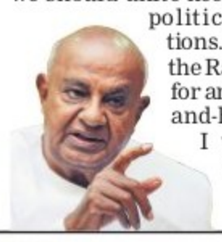
Bommai said that Karnataka has become a jungle raj. Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara, however, rubbished the allegations. Stern action is being taken against the accused, he said.

'Modi can fix Cauvery row after becoming PM again'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

FORMER prime minister **HD Deve Gowda** here on Saturday said that only Prime Minister Narendra Modi had the power to resolve the Cauvery water issue faced by Karnataka. He hoped that Modi would address it soon after the Lok Sabha polls, when he becomes the PM again.

The JDS supremo took a dig at the Cauvery Water Management Committee and the Cauvery Water Management Authority directing Karnataka to release water to Tamil Nadu, whenever it submits an application without assessing the ground reality. "The Cauvery problem has a solution. We the MPs from the state should fight together to make PM Modi realise the injustice done to us. There might be 40 MPs from Tamil Nadu, and we are 28, but we should unite keeping aside political affiliations. I will be in the Rajya Sabha for another two-and-half years. I will fight for Cauvery till my last breath," he stated.



Gowda said that he will raise the issue in the next Parliamentary session, and has appealed to the PM for his intervention. "However, Modi cannot do everything immediately and we all have to struggle," he remarked.

Gowda also regretted that the grants under the Accelerated Irrigation Programme, that he claimed to have been introduced when he was the prime minister, have not been given to the Cauvery basin projects, citing that the dispute is yet to be resolved. But the Supreme Court has given its final verdict on sharing of the water between the two states and the government has gazetted it. Hence, the Cauvery basin deserved the grants for taking up drinking water projects, he explained.

A sum of Rs 8,000 crore was due to the state for the projects in Krishna basin as well, he added, informing that the issue was brought to the notice of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Water Resources that held a meeting recently and convinced it of the injustice caused to the farmers in 10 districts of the Cauvery basin of the state.

HDK will contest LS polls only if Modi suggests: Gowda

With speculation rife over former CM HD Kumaraswamy joining PM Narendra Modi's cabinet, former PM HD Deve Gowda on Saturday did not rule out the possibility completely. However, Gowda clarified that his son will take a call on contesting the Lok Sabha polls only if Modi advises him to. Recently, when Union Minister for Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda visited Gowda and Kumaraswamy, speculation arose that the latter would get a cabinet berth with the Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare portfolio. "A one-time MLA has been made a CM and Modi replaced old leaders with new ones as CMs. Even Modi's colleagues do not know what his action plan is. So I don't know what is on his mind," Gowda said.

Centre orders probe against Kerala CM daughter's firm

Investigation in connection with payments received without providing any services; Team to submit report in four months

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ TPuram

THE Union Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has ordered a probe against Exalogic Solutions Pvt Ltd, an IT company owned by Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's daughter T Veena, in connection with the monthly payments it received from a firm allegedly without providing any services.

The investigation will also be conducted against the Aluva-based Cochin Minerals And Rutiles Ltd (CMRL), which made the payments, and the Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd (KSIDC), which has 13.4% stake in CMRL.

The order was issued by MCA joint director M D Shakeel on January 12. A three-member team comprising Karnataka deputy Registrar of Companies Varun B S, Chennai deputy director K M Shanker Narayan and Pondicherry Registrar of Companies A Gokulnath will conduct the investigation. The probe team has been asked to submit its report to the Union government within four months.

In August 2023, the Income Tax Interim Settlement Board released a report saying that Veena and her company received ₹1.72 crore over the last three years as monthly payments from CMRL thought there is no evidence of any services given in return.

According to the order issued by MCA, Registrar of Companies, Bengaluru, had conducted a probe based on a complaint it received. "The inquiry conducted under the provisions of Section 206(4) of the Companies Act unearthed various violations and offences. The report also recommended an investigation into the affairs of the company. Based on this report, the Registrar of Companies in Ernakulam, in its report submitted to the Central government, said that replies furnished by CMRL are vague and evasive to the allegations. KSIDC had not furnished a reply to the notices issued by the Registrar of Companies based on the complaints," the order said.

> The report also recommended an investigation into the affairs of the company
>
> - Union Ministry of Corporate Affairs

The order further said in the exercise of powers conferred under section 210(1)(c) of the Companies Act, 2013, the Central government has formed an opinion that the affairs of the CMRL, KSIDC and Exalogic Solutions are to be investigated.

Order creating confusion among schools, parents: KAMS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

VIOLATIONS that attract disqualification include running schools without registration, teaching unauthorised curriculum, changing curriculum from state to CBSE Board, allowing additional sections or grades without prior approval, changing the medium of instruction without approval, conducting classes for different boards (CBSE, ICSE, IB) without affiliation and starting departments without knowledge of the competent authority. Strict actions will also be taken against institutions teaching state curriculum but using other textbooks in classrooms, despite warning, the circular stated.

Minister for School Education and Literacy Madhu Bangarappa had revealed last year that the state has over 1,600 illegal schools. He had warned that such illegal schools would be closed in a phased manner and students shifted to other schools.

Criticising the latest circular, the Associated Managements of English Medium Schools In Karnataka (KAMS) charged that the department does not have any clarity on its orders and it is creating only a sense of fear and confusion among schools and parents. KAMS Secretary Shashi Kumar D feared that the circular could lead to rampant corruption in the department.

KAMS questioned as to what will happen to schools that have appealed before the HC or Appellate Authority has issued interim stay orders. Kumar said the rule specifies that one year should be given to the schools for 'safe exist' and cannot be done between academic years. But the government is going back on its word.

PILGRIMS' TRAIL

Children from Andhra Pradesh visit the Ram Mandir premises in Ayodhya on Saturday | PTI

'BTC has nothing to do with the raids'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

THE CCB sleuths had temporarily locked the cash counters. They found that the bookies were not providing tax invoices and were cheating the exchequer by avoiding tax. The officials suspect that the tax evasion was happening for quite some time.

This is the second time that the CCB is raiding the club. In December 2019, CCB sleuths had detained 40 bookies and seized Rs 96 lakh cash. Just a few days later, the Enforcement Wing of the Karnataka Goods and Service Tax department too had raided BTC and unearthed a huge tax evasion scam.

BTC Chairman and senior steward Arvind Raghavan clarified that BTC has nothing to do with the raids, which were conducted on 26 licensed bookies.

SHAH CONVINCES SOMANNA NOT TO CONTEST LS POLLS

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI
@ Bengaluru

FORMER minister and BJP leader V Somanna, who wanted to contest the Lok Sabha elections, seems to have backtracked after BJP high command leaders – Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP national president J P Nadda, whom he met in the national capital on Saturday -- convinced him not to take the risk of contesting elections anymore.

Somanna, along with the incumbent MP GS Basavaraju, had lobbied for the Tumakuru seat, even as former chief minister BS Yediyurappa and his son and BJP state president BY Vijayendra were backing former minister JC Madhu Swamy. But Shah, citing the party's internal survey that was not favourable to Somanna, advised him not to contest the polls, sources said.

"Given the animosity between Somanna, Yediyurappa and Vijayendra, it will be tough for him to win the polls," said a BJP leader.

Somanna, a Veerashaiva-Lingayat leader, lost both Varuna and Chamarajanagar Assembly seats in the May 10 polls. He had alleged that Yediyurappa and Vijayendra did not work in his favour. He was also sulking after Vijayendra was made state BJP chief and had removed himself from party activities. He sought the intervention of high command leaders, especially Shah, who had advised him to contest from both the seats.

"I am content with the response of high command leaders as they gave an indication of setting things right. I will wait and watch. I never said I would contest the LS polls. But I have appealed for the Rajya Sabha membership and it is up to the high command to decide," Somanna told.

WAR OF WORDS

'Hegde's comment reflects his culture'

SUBHASH CHANDRA NS
@ Kumta

THE state government has strongly criticized Uttara Kannada MP **Ananth Kumar Hegde** who taunted the Congress party leaders for their 'anti-Hindutva' stance.

Siddaramaiah on Saturday lashed out at Uttara Kannada MP Ananth Kumar Hegde who made derogatory comments against him. "It reflects Hegde's culture," the Chief Minister said. Hegde had criticized Siddaramaiah's dilemma on going to Ayodhya for the inauguration of the Ram Temple.

Speaking at Bagalkot's Kudalasangama, Siddaramaiah said, "What better can we expect from a person like Ananth Kumar Hegde. He was the one who said he would change the Constitution when he was a Minister."

Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara said it is not wise to use derogatory remarks and provocative words. "One should always speak responsibly. Hegde had not made any remarks in the last three years. Now, with the elections approaching, he has started speaking. But, he should realise that using such derogatory words is not part of good culture," he said.

Stating that the government has been observing the remarks he has been making, he said, "We will see how we can initiate action against him under the law."

Hegde, who was addressing the BJP cadre in Kumta on Saturday, had lashed out at the Chief Minister stating that Siddaramaiah is a person who would go to any extent to appease the minority and mocked at his dilemma on going to Ayodhya. "Whether you (Siddaramaiah) attend the event or not, the temple event will not stop," Hegde said.

On the occasion, Hegde also said that the Chinnadapalli mosque of Bhatkal will meet the same fate as the Babri mosque.

Priyanka Gandhi to contest from Koppal?

RAGHOTTAM KOPPAR @ Koppal

SOCIAL media platforms are abuzz with a viral news that claims Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi may contest from Koppal. There are also rumours that the AICC sources have conducted surveys without informing the local Congress unit and are considering Koppal as one of the choices. There is another buzz that Telangana is AICC sources' alternative choice. Some people on X have already started inviting the senior leader to contest from Koppal with a hashtag 'please come to Koppal'. However, no senior congress leaders have confirmed the same. But, the local leaders are circulating the news on social media platforms.

Koppal's present Lok Sabha member is Karadi Sanganna from BJP party. The Congress members believe that since there is an anti administration wave, the Karnataka state government's five schemes will become an added benefit in the coming Lok Sabha polls for the Congress party.

The local congress unit is not aware of the same, but assured that they will work to ensure their leader Priyanka Gandhi will win with a big margin.

Koppal is a strong base of Congress. With 8 assembly constituencies, among which Congress has won in six, it is assumed that Koppal will be a safe place for Priyanka to win the LS polls.

Earlier, Indira Gandhi got political rebirth after contesting from Karnataka, while Sonia Gandhi contested from Ballari in 1999. Hence, Koppal could be the best place for General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi to contest from. CM Siddaramaiah also has a big fan base in Koppal.

Koppal Congress members said it will be a boon for Karnataka if Priyanka Gandhi contests from Koppal as it will instill confidence among the members across the state.

Some Congress members also said that national leaders who contest from Karnataka have a bright future.

Law and Tourism minister HK Patil said, "The news is not true and we cannot say that there will be more chances of winning in Koppal."

Rogue elephant being loaded on the truck in Belur taluk on Saturday | EXPRESS

Rogue elephant captured in Belur taluk

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Hassan

A 30-year-old rogue elephant was captured near Nallur village of Belur taluk on Saturday. A team comprising eight tamed elephants — Abhimanyu, Bheema, Dhananjaya, Sugreeva, Ashwathama, Prashant, Harsha and Mahendra — and forest staff captured the elephant within two hours of the operation.

It may be recalled that the elephant operation was started on November 24 and was stopped on December 4 following the death of famed Dasara elephant Arjuna during the operation.

The chief conservator of forest Ravikumar said, the captured elephant will be translocated to an elephant camp in Mysuru district. "The operation will continue for one month and all the rouge elephants entering human habitats and destroying the standing crops in Alur, Sakleshpur, Belur and parts of Arkalgud taluks in the district will be captured and translocated to elephant camps in the nearby districts," he added.

If BJP can win Assam, why not Odisha: Assam CM

BIJOY PRADHAN @ Bhubaneswar

ASSAM Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Saturday said that the BJP was going to form the next government in Odisha and he would attend the swearing-in ceremony.

On a two-day visit to the state, Sarma told mediapersons after a meeting with party workers here that the people of the state have made up their mind to give an opportunity to the BJP due to the good work done by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for Odisha in the last nine years. "Lord Jagannath will bless the BJP," he said.

He said the BJP had secured 38.4 per cent votes in the 2019 Lok Sabha election and 32.5 per cent in the Assembly polls. "The four per cent gap with the ruling BJD will go into the account of BJP this time as a reward for the hardwork of the prime minister," he said.

Dubbing the 'Naveen brand' a myth, Sarma said one crore people (38 per cent voters) voted for the BJP. This showed that these people are opposed to the Naveen brand of governance. "How much time will it take to add another 30 to 50 lakh voters," he said.

Earlier addressing party workers at the state BJP headquarters, Sarma said, "If BJP could end the long run of Congress and come to power in Assam despite 42 per cent hostile voters, it is quite possible in Odisha also."

EXPRESS READ

Revanth meets Goyal, seeks nod for new Industrial Corridor

Hyderabad: Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Saturday requested Union Minister for Industries and Commerce Piyush Goyal to grant approval for the establishment of a new Industrial Corridor connecting Hyderabad to Vijayawada via Miryalaguda. The chief minister also urged the Union minister to reconsider the proposal of establishing a Pharma City between Hyderabad and Warangal. This proposal was made by the previous BRS government. Revanth asked Goyal to instead endorse the forthcoming proposals for a Pharma City by the current state government. During the meeting, which was also attended by Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, the chief minister submitted proposals for various projects to Goyal.

Tamil Nadu CM brushes aside rumours on Udhay's elevation

Chenna: Chief Minister MK Stalin, on Saturday, brushed aside rumours about Udhayanidhi Stalin being offered the deputy CM post, stating this was the work of rumour mongers. In a letter to DMK cadre, he urged members not to fall for such misinformation campaign aimed at diverting DMK youth wing state-level conference primary focus, which is themed on retrieving state rights. He said that after the rumours surrounding his health conditions were successfully thwarted, lies are being spread on social media that Udhayanidhi is going to be elevated as deputy CM. Social media and a section of media outlets, over the last week, had been claiming that Udhayanidhi was set to become Stalin's deputy after the DMK youth wing conference.

Transport Cos not entitled for 'idle charges': HC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE Karnataka High Court has held that the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation and transport companies are not entitled compensation under "idle charges" for revenue loss when vehicles are taken for repair after accidents.

Justice Hanchate Sanjeevkumar passed the order while partly allowing a batch of petitions filed by the New India Assurance Company Limited questioning the orders passed by a tribunal to grant compensation for revenue loss. If a bus meets with an accident and gets damaged and is kept in the garage for repair, the transport agencies are entitled for compensation on other heads as per law, but not for loss of revenue, the judge said.

The KSRTC's counsel contended that due to accidents, buses are taken to workshops for repair and during this idle period, they cannot ply. Therefore, KSRTC is entitled to compensation under "loss of revenue" since the bus is in the workshop for repair.

The counsel appearing for the insurance company submitted that KSRTC is not entitled for compensation under "idle charges/loss of revenue" as spare buses are assigned in the scheduled routes. So, KSRTC does not lose revenue.

Man held for poisoning eight peacocks in Chikkodi

Belagavi: As many as eight peacocks died at a farm in Manjari illage of Chikkodi taluk on Saturday after consuming the grains that were mixed in poison. The man who fed the poison for the sake of the meat of these birds has been arrested, while two other accused are absconding. A group of three persons fed poison mixed maize seeds to the peacocks at a farm on the banks of Krishna river for the sake of meat of these birds. When the villagers came to know about it, they tried to catch these people. One was caught while two others escaped by jumping into the Krishna river and reached the other end of the river by swimming. On receiving information from the residents, the forest personnel reached the spot and arrested the person caught by the people. The accused has been identified as Manjunath Pawar, resident of Jhalaki village of Aland taluk, Gulbarga district. The forest personnel took him to custody while taking the dead peacocks for autopsy.

'India remains a secular country because of its Hindu majority'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Kozhikode

ARCHAEOLOGIST KK Muhammed, who was part of the ASI team that excavated the Babri Masjid site in Ayodhya in 1976 where the Ram Mandir stands now, has said that Muslims should willingly hand over Gyanvapi and Mathura too to Hindus in interest of finding a lasting solution. He was talking to TNIE.

"The Muslim community should be ready to willingly hand over its rights over Varanasi and Mathura to the Hindus. Ayodhya, Kashi and Mathura are three places as important to Hindus as Mecca and Madina are for the Muslims," he said.

According to him, tension is bound to be there. But from a historic perspective, there cannot be a lasting solution to the whole issue without handing these two over, he said. "I always remind the Muslims that India, even after partition, remains a secular country because of its Hindu majority," he added.

While insisting that he was shocked at the demolition of the Babri Masjid in 1992, Muhammed, 71, said that no archaeologist would agree to demolition of any historical structure. "We were all shaken. Retired IAS officer Iravatam Mahadevan had stated that we should not do a wrong to correct a historical mistake that happened centuries ago," he said.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)

E-TNDER NOTICE No.ERS/SG/CN/2023/OT/04

For and on behalf of The President of India, The Deputy Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, Construction, Ernakulam invites E-Tender for the following works:

1	Name of the work	Signalling and Telecommunication arrangements at Mangalore Junction (Stage II & Stage III) in connection with doubling of track between Mangalore Junction and Panambur stations.
2	Approximate cost of the work	₹ 14,10,59,398/-
3	Cost of Tender Form	NIL
4	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	₹ 8,55,300/-
5	Bidding System	Two Packet
6	Completion Period of work	10 (TEN) months
7	Tender Closing Date & Time	01-02-2024, 15.30 hrs
8	Notice board particulars where details of can be obtained	Office of the Dy Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, (Construction), Southern Railway, Ernakulam Juction.

Note: 1. Value of tender inclusive of GST as per extant rules for the supply and services by the tenderer. 2. Joint Ventures (JV) are allowed to bid. 3. Visit **www.ireps.gov.in** for detailed terms and conditions and other details.

Dy Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer, (Construction), Ernakulam Junction

Follow us on: twitter.com/GMSRailway

PUBLIC NOTICE

The State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority-Karnataka (Constituted by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MOEF&CC) Government of India), has accorded the Environmental Clearance for Proposed Row Houses Project on the property at Sy. Nos. 36,37/1& 37/2, Uttari Village,Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District is being developed by M/s. GRC Infra, vide order No. SEIAA 90 CON 2023 Dated 22.09.2023. The said copy of environment clearance is available with the SEIAA office and the website of MOEF&CC at https://parivesh.nic.in

Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd

(FORMERLY KNOWN AS EQUITAS FINANCE LTD)

Registered Office : No.769, Spencer Plaza, 4th Floor, Phase-II, Anna Salai, Chennai - 600002.

DEMAND NOTICE - NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13 (2) OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002

NOTICE is hereby given that the following borrower/s have availed loan from Equitas Housing Finance Limited (EHFL) / Equitas Finance Limited (EFL) / Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd (ESFB). The said borrower/s had/have failed to pay Installments and their loan account has been classified as Non-Performing Asset as per the guidelines issued by RBI. The details of the secured immovable propert/ties, loan and the amounts outstanding as on date payable by the borrower/s are mentioned below. The borrower(s) and the public in general are informed that the undersigned being the Authorized Officer, the secured creditor has initiated action against the following borrower(s) under the provisions of the SARFAESI Act, 2002 and not to deal with the said property. on failure to repay the outstanding dues indicated against their names within 60 (Sixty) days of this notice, the undersigned will exercise any one or more of the powers under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act, including power to take possession of the property/ies and sell the same

SR NO	Name of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)(NAME OF THE BRANCH)	13(2) Notice Date Claim Amount	Description of Secured Asset (Immovable Property)
1	BRANCH - Mysore Loan No - SEMYSOR0138809 BORROWER - Mrs. Kamalamma GUARANTOR - Mr. Chandrashkhara, Mr. Mahadeva	25-11-2019 & 331821	All the peace and parcel of the immovable Schedule property No.152900102901100134 Grama panchayath property No. 136/106/19 Situated at thimmasandra Village, Thagachagere grama panchayath, Channapattana Taluk, Measuring east to west 12.192 mtr (40 feet), north to south 12.192 mtr (40 Feet), Total extent 148.64 cha.mtr (1600 sq.ft). North by : Road, South by : Land of Kenchegowda, East by : House of Mayappa, West by : House of Chamundaiah. Measurement : 30.19 sq.mt sheet T.S.Muni house. Situated at within the Sub-Registration District of CHANNAPATTANA and Registration District of RAMANAGARA

Date - 14.01.2024, Place - Ramanagara **Authorized officer, Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd**

बैंक ऑफ महाराष्ट्र Bank of Maharashtra

A GOVT. OF INDIA UNDERTAKING

एक परिवार एक बैंक

Asset Recovery Branch : 1st Floor, No.15, Police Station Road, Basavangudi, Bangalore – 560004 **TELE:** 8292940000 **E-mail:** brmgr1934@mahabank.co.in

Head Office: Lokmangal,1501, Shivajinagar, Pune-5

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav G20

Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties (Appendix IV-A)

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower/s & Guarantor/s that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to Bank of Maharashtra, the possession of which have been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of Maharashtra, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is"** on **20.02.2024**, for recovery of the balance due to the Bank of Maharashtra from the Borrower(s) as mentioned in the table. Details of Borrower/s & Guarantor/s, amount due, Short description of the immovable property and encumbrances known thereon, possession type, reserve price and the earnest money deposit are also given as under –

Sr. No.	Name and address of Borrowers & Guarantors	Outstanding dues as on 11.01.2024	Short description of immovable property / Possession Type / Encumbrances known to the bank	Reserve Price / Earnest Money Deposit
1.	**Branch: Asset Recovery branch (M-8292940000)** **Borrower: M/s. A P Krishna Enterprises (Partnership Firm)** No.4C, 1014, 1st Block, HRBR Layout, Bengaluru-560 043. **Also at** Packing Unit No.48, 2nd Main, Palace Guttahalli, Bengaluru-560 003. **Guarantors: Mr. P V Aneesh Kumar (Partner)**, 327, Khata No. 278/8, Kalkeri Village, Horamavu, Bengaluru- 560 043. **Also at:** Site No.7, Building No.34, 2nd Cross, Horamavu Agaraha Main Road, Near Railway Gate, Jyothi Nagar, Horamavu, Bengaluru -560 043. **Mr. K Munisanjeevappa (Partner)**, No.26/1B, Kanakpura Main Road, Jaraganahalli, J P Nagar, 7th Phase, Bengaluru - 560 078. **Also at:** No. 2, Khatha No. 218/715/2, S No. 26/1B, Jaaraganahalli, J P Nagar, 6th Phase, Uttarahalli Hobli Kanakpura Road, Bangalore – 560 078.	**Rs.4,61,07,492.00 (Rupees Four Crore Sixty One Lakh Seven Thousand Four Hundred Ninety Two only)** plus further interest w.e.f. 12.01.2024 plus all costs, penalty, charges and expenses or other incidental charges thereof.	All the piece and parcel of residential cum commercial building No.2 (Khatha No. 218/715/2) formed in Sy No. 26/1B, Jaraganahalli J P Nagar 6th Phase, Uttarahalli Hobli, Kanakpura Road, Bangalore South Taluk, Pin-560078, in the name of Mr. K Munisanjeevappa, measuring East to West 46 ft. and North to South (105.6+99/2) ft. and **bounded on : North by** : 30 feet Road; **South by :** Private property; **East by :** 20 feet Road & West by : Property No. 3 of Jayaram. / Symbolic / NIL	**Rs.384.00 lakhs** / **Rs.38.40 Lakh**

- **Date of E-Auction & Time: 20/02/2024 between 1.00 pm to 5.00 pm.**
- **Property Inspection Date & Time: On all Working days of bank on or before 19/02/2024 with prior appointment.**
- **Last Date & Time for submission of Bid/EMD : 20/02/2024 upto 12.00 Noon**

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in website of Bank of Maharashtra i.e. "https://www.bankofmaharashtra.in/properties for sale"; "https://ibapi.in", and "www.mstcecommerce.com".

STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT, 2002

The borrower/s and guarantor/s above named are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with up to dated interest and ancillary expenses before the date of auction, failing which the property will be auctioned/sold and balance dues if any will be recovered with interest and cost.

Sd/-, Authorized Officer
Bank of Maharashtra
ARB, Bangalore Zone

Date: 12/01/2024
Place: Bangalore

REPCO HOME FINANCE LIMITED

Repco Home Finance

ARB BANAGLORE : 109, First Floor, 'A' Wing, Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore - 560 001

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Properties)

Whereas the undersigned being **Authorised Officer** of **Repco Home Finance Limited** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a **Demand Notice on the dates mentioned below, calling upon them** to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower, Co-Borrowers and the Guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower, Co-Borrowers, Guarantor and the public in general that **the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below** in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 9 of the said rules on this the **10th day of January 2024.**

The Borrower, Co-Borrowers, Guarantor and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **Repco Home Finance Limited, ARB Bangalore Branches for an amount and interest thereon mentioned below against each account.**

We draw your attentions to Sec 13 (8) of the Securitisation Act as per which, no further steps shall be taken for transfer or sale of the secured asset, if the dues of the secured creditor together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by secured creditor are tendered by you at anytime before the date fixed for sale or transfer of the secured asset.

Sl.No.1:- Mr. Mr. P. Anand, S/o, R.N. Prasad,No. 44/2, 13, 2nd Cross, Krishna Layout, Hulimavu, Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore - 560 076 Also at, HAL, New Control Tower, ASC, Vimanapura Post, Bengalore - 560 017. **Also at:** Site No. 94, Katha No. 692/862/10/1/94, Property No. 10/1, Halesampigehalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Banagalore Urban District. **Co-Borrower: Mrs. K. Kavitha**, W/o, P. Anand, No. 44/2, 13, 2nd Cross, Krishna Layout, Hulimavu, Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore - 560 076. **Also at:** Site No. 94, Katha No. 692/862/10/1/94, Property No. 10/1, Halesampigehalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Banagalore Urban District. **Guarantor: Mr. H.L. Arun Kumar** No. 987, 3rd Cross, AGS Layout, Near Sapthagiri College, Heasaragatta, Bangalore - 560 090. **Also at:** HAL Airport Service Center, New Control Tower, Vimanapura Post, Bangalore - 560017.

Demand Notice Date: 24-07-2023 Amount claimed as per Demand Notice **(Account Nos.2581860000045 (Old No.1851860000277) & 2581860000037 (Old No.1851860000322)** being **Rs.13,12,660/- & Rs.6,16,007/-** respectively with further interest from **15-07-2023** onwards and other costs thereon; **Amount Outstanding: Rs.14,19,963/- & Rs.6,63,976/-** respectively with further interest from **03-01-2024** onwards and other costs thereon.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY: All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing Site No. 94, KH No. 692/862/10/1/94, Property No. 10/1, situated at Hale Sampige Halli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengalore Urban District, Bangalore measuring East to West 40 ft and North to South 30 ft totally measuring 1200 Sq.ft., together with building constructed thereon and **Bounded on: East by:** Road, **West by:** CA Pholipose Property, **North by:** Santhosh Property **South by:** Private Property.

Sl.No.2:-Borrower: Mrs. K. Jayalakshmi, W/o, N. Keshav Murthy, No. 189, Harish Kalyan Nivas, 2nd Main, 11th Cross, Padmeshwari Nagar, Virsonagar, Bangalore - 560 091. **Co-Borrower: Mr. N. Keshav Murthy,** S/o, Neela Megam, No. 189, Harish Kalyan Nivas, 2nd Main, 11th Cross, Padmeshwari Nagar, Virsonagar, Bangalore - 560 091 **Guarantor: Mr. Ramesh Kumar,** S/o, A. Neela Megam, No. 189, Harish Kalyan Nivas, 2nd Main, 11th Cross, Padmeshwari Nagar, Virsonagar, Bangalore - 560 091

Demand Notice Date: 26-07-2023 Amount claimed as per Demand Notice **(Account No.2581860000326 (Old No.1861860000463))** being **Rs.43,78,222/-** respectively with further interest from **15-07-2023** onwards and other costs thereon; **Amount Outstanding: Rs.47,34,488/-** with further interest from **03-01-2024** onwards and other costs thereon.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY: All that piece and parcel of immovable property Site No. 122, House list Katha No. 169/302 formed in property No.222, Situated at Padmeshwarinagar, Kithiganur Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, within the limits of Avalahalli Gram Panchayath, measuring East to West 30 feet and North to South 40 feet totally measuring 1200 Sq.ft., together with building constructed thereon and **Bounded on: East by:** Site No. 123, **West by :** Site No. 121, **North by :**Site No. 117, **South by :**Road.

Sl.No.3:- Borrower: Mr. Shivaraju.D S/o. Mr. Doddaiah No. 231, 4th Cross, Vijayalakshmi layout Bagalagunte Nagasandra post, Banglore-560 073. **Also at: "Fouress Engineering (India) Ltd"** Plot No.2, Peenya Indi Area, Banglore - 560 058. **Co-Borrower : Mrs. Nagarathna C (Deceased)**, W/o. Mr. Shivaraju.D No. 231, 4th Cross, Vijayalakshmi layout Bagalagunte Nagasandra post, Banglore-560 073. **Also at: "SRI MARUTHI PROVISION STORE"** Door no.34, Chikka Sandra, Shetlyhalli Main Road, Banglore-560057, Ms.Shilpa (Legal Heir of Mrs.Nagarathna) D/o, Mr.Shivaraju.D, No. 231, 4th Cross, Vijayalakshmi layout Bagalagunte Nagasandra post, Banglore-560 073. **Guarantor : Mr. Prakash.S** S/o. Mr. Srinivasmurthy No.436 Ranganatha Nilaya, Gangondanahalli, Lakshmipura post, Bangalore - 562123. **Also at: "Fouress Engineering (India) Ltd"** Plot No.2, Peenya Indi Area, Banglore - 560058.

Demand Notice Date: 17-08-2023 Amount claimed as per Demand Notice **(Account Nos.2581860000179 (Old A/c No.1121860002650)** being **Rs.24,09,155/-** respectively with further interest from **10-08-2023** onwards and other costs thereon; **Amount Outstanding: Rs.25,58,945/-** respectively with further interest from **05-12-2022** onwards and other costs thereon.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY: All that piece and parcel of Northern Portion of Property Site No.2, formed in Assessment/Survey No.72, Khatha No.48, situated at Bagalgunte Village, Yeshwanthapur Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, presently property comes under the limits of Bruhath Bangalore Mahanagara Palike(BBMP), Measuring:- East to West : 46 feet, North to South: 15 feet, Totally measuring 690 Sq.ft, **Boundaries as follows: East by :** Property of Chinnappa, **West by :** Road, **North by :** Property No.3, **South by:** Southern Portion of same Property.

Date: 10-01-2024

Authorised Officer,
Repco Home Finance Ltd.

KERALA STATE DRUGS & PHARMACEUTICALS LTD.

(A Government of Kerala Undertaking)
Kalavoor - PO, Alappuzha, Kerala-688522. Tel: -0477 2258184. Website:www.ksdp.co.in e-mail-ksdpmgtn@gmail.com

E - Tender Notice

E-Tenders are invited from competent Suppliers/Manufacturers for the Supply of API's,Exepients,Petbottles,Vials, for the year 2023-24.

Last dates of Bid Submissions are 16th to 23rd January,2024.

Please Refer Sites

http://etenders.kerala.gov.in/www.ksdp.co.in for detailed specification, terms and conditions. Any further amendment or corrigendum will be published only in the sites. Participants are advised to refer sites for necessary information on a regular basis.

Sd/- ,Managing Director

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE NO. DCE-CN-CLT-OT-01-2024 DATED: 12/01/2024

Name of the work: Doubling of track between MAJN-PNMB - Proposed housekeeping, hospitality services and Directional works in the Deputy Chief Engineer's office at Mangaluru, officers rest house / construction / Mangaluru and its premises for a period of 2 Years.

Tender Value: ₹. 11.97 lakhs

Completion Period: 24 months

Date of Opening: 05/02/2024 @ 12.30 hrs

Complete details & tender document will be available at **https://www.ireps.gov.in**

Deputy Chief Engineer/ Construction, Kozhikode.

Follow us on: twitter.com/GMSRailway

RAIL COACH FACTORY KAPURTHALA

E-TENDER NOTICE

On-line bids are invited by PCMM, RCF on behalf of President of India for the following item(s):-

Sr.No.	Tender No. & Due Date	Description	Qty. (Nos/Sets)	EMD(₹)
1.	13235419/06.02.2024	1) Supply and Deployment of License/Software for Design office. PL No. 570100089063. 2) Supply and Deployment of Licences/Software for Planning Office. PL No. 570100089075. 3) Implementation of PLM (Foundation, Material Planning, Data Management, Document Management, Offline Programming) as per Annexure-II PLM Scope of Delivery. PL No. 571500040015. 4) Implementation of PLM (Shape-Based search using Geolus, Intractive Reporting, Other System Requirements and Integration, Deliverables Training, Go-Live and support) as per Annexure-II PLM Scope of Delivery. PL No. 571500040027.	01 Set for 1) to 4)	1162570/-
2.	14231273/07.02.2024	Fleet Graphic Film for LHB & MEMU Coaches	729 Nos. 402 Nos.	2000000/-
3.	17231381A/09.02.2024	Luggage Rack Mounting for Generator Cum Brake Van LHB	42 Sets	234960/-
4.	13245007/05.02.2024	EOT Crane 5 Ton as per specification no. Mech/M&P/3800/GM/09 Rev-03. [**Warranty Period:** 30 Months after the date of delivery]. PL No./Item Code: 651006820018.	01 Nos.	74000/-
5.	13235365/05.02.2024	Direct Part Marking Machine (Laser Based) as per spec. No. MECH/M&P/3400/GM/10 Rev.-Nil. [**Warranty Period:** 30 Months after the date of delivery]. PL No./Item Code: 6415378.	01 Nos.	127320/-
6.	07231382/01.02.2024	Set of Pipe and Fittings of Control Equipment for 3-Phase MEMU DMC & TC Coaches as per Drawing MPBGCEDMC3PH Ver. 0.	117 Set	166170/-
7.	01241001/12.02.2024	Set of Control Arm support	85 Set	54360
8.	01241006/12.02.2024	Brake Head	3360 Nos.	73110

1. For details and making On-line bids, visit Website **http://ireps.gov.in** Drawings/specifications, wherever required can be downloaded from RCF Website **http://www.rcf.indianrailways.gov.in. Class IIIb digital signature certificate required for on-line bidding, can be obtained from licensed certifying agencies listed at website http://www.cce.gov.in. 2.** All Limited tenders and Advertised tenders will normally close at 11:25 Hrs and 14:25 Hrs respectively on the stipulated date and will be opened at 11.30 Hrs and 14.30 Hrs. **3.** Tender at Sr. No. 1 to 5 will be opened at RCF, Kapurthala and Tender at Sr. No. 6 & 8 will be opened at Tilak Bridge, New Delhi-110002. **4.** For queries contact IREPS Helpdesk at 011-24102855, 011-24105180 or RCF Helpdesk at 011-23378658. **NOTE:** "GST No. of RCF is 03AAAGM0289C1ZT. All the suppliers are advised to quote this in dispatch documents for the supplies made by them". **PCMM/Dy. CMM**

CORRIGENDUM: (1) Tender No. 14231210A **Due date may be read as 18.01.2024** instead of 12.01.2024. **(2)** Tender No. 14231255 **Due date may be read as 23.01.2024** instead of 12.01.2024. **(3)** Tender No. 17231465 for procurement of Supply and Fitment of complete Furnishing of LHB AC-3TIER Coaches on Turnkey Basis, **Due date may be read as 16.01.2024** instead of 10.01.2024. **(4)** Tender No. 12231399 for the procurement of NON AC AREA CEILING ARRGT. FOR LHB AC 3TIER COACHES, **Due date may be read as 22.01.2024** instead of 10.01.2024. **(5)** Tender No. 14221101D, **Due date may be read as 15.01.2024** instead of 04.01.2024. **(6)** Tender No. 17231465 for procurement of Supply and Fitment of complete Furnishing of LHB AC-3TIER Coaches on Turnkey Basis, **Due date may be read as 18.01.2024** instead of 16.01.2024. **(7)** Tender No. 14231206, **Due date may be read as 22.01.2024** instead of 09.01.2024. **(8)** Tender No. 17231475A for Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of automatic smoke/fire detection with alarm system on retro fitment basis in existing 3 phase EMU/MEMU rakes over Indian Railways **Due date may be read as 31.01.2024** instead of 16.01.2024. **Dy. CMM**

R.O. No. 142-S/2023-24 **Dated: 13.01.2024**

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

TRIVANDRUM (WORKS BRANCH)
TRIVANDRUM DIVISION

E-TENDER NOTICE No. V/W/TVC/1/2024 DATED 11/01/2024

Divisional Railway Manager/Works Branch/Trivandrum Division, Trivandrum-14 for and on behalf of the President of India invites ONLINE tenders for the following works as per tender notice and Complete details are given in our e-tender portal **www.ireps.gov.in.**

Sl. No.	Description	App. Value (₹) In lakhs	Earnest Money Deposit (₹)
1	TVC Division - Painting of girder bridges and steel structures due in 2023-24.	76.72	153500
2	ADEN/TCR - Sub-Division:- Provision of Divyangjan facilities at Stations.	186.89	243500
3	ADEN/QLN: Opening, examination and standardization of approach road at level Crossings.	229.28	264600
4	NCJ: Urgent Repairs to spalled portions of catwalk between Pit lines No.1 & 2.	49.28	98600
5	DEN South Jurisdiction: TFR on channel sleeper - 464 sleepers.	59.41	118800
6	Ernakulam P.Way section - ERC greacing, boxing of ballast, painting of rails and other maintenance works in P.Way to eliminate deficiencies in track--balance work.	96.74	193500
7	SSE/W/KTYM Jurisdiction: Renovation of SSE/ Pway office at - KTYM, PVRD & TRVL and SSE/W office KTYM.	40.62	81200
8	Collection and training out of track ballast at Vallathol Nagar depot.	182.33	241200
9	Provision of 20 person capacity lift at Railway Hospital/TVP.	21.38	42800
10	Ernakulam - Alleppey - Kayankulam - Trivandrum - TTR(FS+TWS+CMSC) - 168 sets (1:12 - 87 sets work with T28 machine only).	671.79	485900
11	ADEN Kollam Subdivision - Kollam P.way section - Maintenance and repairs of minor bridges including clearing of waterway and approach drains.	77.02	154100
12	TVC Division - Provision of office accommodation for SSE/JE/Signal & Tele in S&T branch at NNN, KCVL, KPY & SRTL.	54.07	108200
13	Repairs & Painting of FOBS in Assistant Divisional Engineer/Quilon Jurisdiction.	57.20	114400
14	DEN/S/TVC Jurisdiction - Retaining wall near Gate lodges and level crossing locations.	52.55	105100
15	1) ERS-Essential repairs to platforma surface including replacement of damaged slabs, repairs to trolley path etc. 2) Brightening up of platform shelters ERS, ERN, KUMM.	73.68	147400
16	Manufacture and supply of warning boards and track side indicators in ADEN/TVC and ADEN/ NCJ Sub divisions.	51.74	103500
17	ADEN/TVC Sub-Division:-Provision of Divyangjan facilities at Stations.	136.80	218400
18	Thiruvananthapuram Division: Proposed renewal of Existing Culverts with Rail/joist & slab, Stone slabs with RCC Box 12 bridges.	376.98	338500
19	TVC Division - Proposed Replacement of existing steel girders with PSC slab for Br. No. 128 UP (1x12.20m) and Br.No.136 UP (1x12.20m) in ERS-KTYM-KY] section.	136.53	218300
20	ADEN Nagercoil Subdivision - Trivandrum P.Way section - Maintenance and repairs of minor bridges including clearing of waterway and approach drains.	149.80	224900

Period of completion in months: Sl. No. 1, 5, 11, 13 to 16, 19: SIX. **Sl. No. 2, 6, 8, 10, 12 :** TWELVE. **Sl. No. 3:** TEN. **Sl. No. 4, 7, 17, 18, 20:** EIGHT. **Sl. No. 9:** FOUR.

Tender Closing date and time: Sl No: 1 to 20: 08-02-2024 at 11.00 hrs.

Note: It is the responsibility of the tenderer to check any Corrigendum issued for any correction or modifications uploaded subsequently in website; the same shall be taken into account while submitting.

Divisional Railway Manager (Works) Trivandrum-14

Follow us on: twitter.com/GMSRailway

ADITYA BIRLA CAPITAL

PROTECTING INVESTING FINANCE ADVISING

Aditya Birla Finance Limited

Registered Office: Indian Rayon Compound, Veraval, Gujarat 362266

Branch Office: Aditya Birla Finance Limited, No 01/78, Star Avenue, 6th Cross, Victoria Road, Victoria Layout, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560047"

APPENDIX-IV
POSSESSION NOTICE
[RULE 8 (1) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized officer of **Aditya Birla Finance Limited** under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated **25.10.2023.** calling upon **Mr. V G PRANAV, Mr. VENUGOPAL GANGADHARAN PRANAV, Ms. HARISH SINDHU**, as Borrowers/Co-Borrowers/Mortgagers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs. 60,53,478.60/- (Rupees Sixty Lakh Fifty-Three Thousand Four Hundred Seventy-Eight and Sixty Paise Only)**as on **18.10.2023.** within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice together with further interest and other charges from the date of demand notice till the date of payment/realization.

The borrowers and co-borrower's despite being served with the said notice and having failed to repay the entire notice amount together with further interest and other charges, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **Symbolic Possession** of the property described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this the **12th day of January , 2024.**

The borrowers and co-borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **Aditya Birla Finance Limited** for an amount of **Rs. 60,53,478.60/- (Rupees Sixty Lakh Fifty-Three Thousand Four Hundred Seventy-Eight and Sixty Paise Only)**together with further interest and other charges from the date of demand notice till the date of payment/realization.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured asset.

DESCRIPTION OF THE MORTGAGED PROPERTY

"All the piece and parcel of the property bearing flat No.202 and 203, new No.202/3, on the first floor, measuring 548 Sq. Feet of super built up area along with 153 Sq. feet of undivided share and 1008 Sq. Feet of super built up area along with 281 Sq. Feet of undivided share, with one car parking space, building known as SLV Paradise, formed on Amalgamated BBMP Khata No.24/41/1. Survey No.44/1, converted vide No.ALN(E)SR(KR.HO)124 and 125/2012-13 dated 15.01.2013, situated at Kyalasanahalli Village, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore, presently comes under the limits of BBMP and bounded on East by: Road and Private Property; West by : Survey No.44/1; North by : Road and Private Property; South by: Survey No.39".

Place:Bangalore
Date :12.01.2024
LAN: **ABBANLAP000000510613.**

for **Aditya Birla Finance Limited**
Authorized Officer
9686701466

THE KARUR VYSYA BANK LTD

KVB Karur Vysya Bank — Smart way to bank

DIVISIONAL OFFICE BUILDING
No.6, 2nd Floor, Shri Vasavi Temple Road, Sajjan Rao Circle, V V Puram, Bangalore – 560 004

SAFE DEPOSIT LOCKER BREAK OPEN PUBLIC NOTICE

The following hirers have availed safe deposit locker facility from the following branches and failed to renew the same within the stipulated time, in spite of repeated notices issued to them by The Karur Vysya Bank Ltd. Since the hirers have failed to pay the locker rent dues, we are constrained to break open of the said locker on the following dates, at the concerned branch premises at 10.30 AM.

This Public Notice is to the hirers and also applies to their legal heirs of the deceased if any. A Copy of this Notice is sent by Registered Post with Acknowledgement Due (RPAD) to the Hirers/Legal Heirs to pay the total locker arrears within the date of break open. The notices are sent to the addresses available last with the branch.

The Karur Vysya Bank Ltd has the authority change the Break Opening Date without any prior notice.

Sl No	Hirer/s Name	Locker No.	Amount Due (₹)	Date of Break Open	Branch Name and Address
1	Pramila Devi Malpani	1331005D002	8850	22.01.2024	KARUR VYSYA BANK No.13, 100ft Ring Road, BTM First Stage, Near Axa Building, Bangalore-560068 Ph No. 26785053 Mob. No 9538889169
2	Krishna Reddy B V	1331005D028	8850		
1	P Gopi	1343005F184	35400	23.01.2024	KARUR VYSYA BANK No.6, 1st Floor, Next to Sri Vasavi Temple, Near Sajjan Rao Circle, VV Puram, Bangalore-560004 Ph. No-26623173 Mob No 9620602023
2	Laxminarayana E	1343003G13	35400		
1	Ravindranath Reddy R	1316005D032	33185	24.01.2024	KARUR VYSYA BANK No. 315, Ward No 17, Near Raghavendra Talkies, KC Road, Bellary-583101 Ph No 08392273876 Mob No. 9742221549
2	Vanaja Chowdary	1316002D024	33185		
3	Venkata Subbarao.S	1316003D023	23600		
4	Adivappa K J	1316005D023	11800		
5	Mohd Mustaq Bash	1316002D026	14750		
6	Nilveni	1316005D012	26550		
7	Vijay Kumar Jain . M	1316002D018	20650		
1	Balavasu R	1325008D012	11800	25.01.2024	KARUR VYSYA BANK No 54, Nagasandra Circle, South End Road, Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560004 Ph No: 26766100 Mob No: 9886227020
2	Shanmuga Sundaram K R	1325007F007	35400		
3	Devika Rani A V	1325003D015	11800		
4	Srinivasa	1325006F004	42480		
5	Yogesh	1325003D017	11800		
6	Harish Kumar R	1325005F005	28320		

Place: Bangalore
Date : 12.01.2024

Sd/- Authorized Officer
The Karur Vysya Bank Limited

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No: SEE (W&M)/HSN/EE (O)/DCA/AEE-1/T-01 to T-05/2023-24/5970
Dated: 12.01.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP portal only)

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation limited invites bids on Electronic mode for providing manpower services through outsource against the following enquiry number.

1) Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/SEE(W&M)/HSN/2023-24/01 **Tender No.** KPTCL/2023-24/SE0660. **Nomenclature:** Providing manpower services for carrying out shift operations and minor maintenance works at 400/220kV R/s **Hebbanahalli** (of Yettinahole project) in Sakaleshapura Taluk, Hassan District.

2) Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/SEE(W&M)/HSN/2023-24/02 **Tender No.** KPTCL/2023-24/SE0663. **Nomenclature:** Providing manpower services for carrying out shift operations and minor maintenance works at 220/66/11kV R/s **Chikkanagara** (of Yettinahole project) in Sakaleshapura Taluk, Hassan District.

3) Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/SEE(W&M)/HSN/2023-24/03 **Tender No.** KPTCL/2023-24/SE0668. **Nomenclature:** Providing 3 Nos. of Security Guards to 400/220kV R/s **Hebbanahally** and 3 Nos. of Security Guards to 220/66kV R/s **Chikkanagara** (of Yettinahole project) in Sakaleshapura Taluk, Hassan District.

4) Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/SEE(W&M)/HSN/2023-24/04 **Tender No.** KPTCL/2023-24/SE0604. **Nomenclature:** Providing 5Nos of Gang men Services through outsourcing to carry out maintenance works of EHV lines in TLM Sub-Division, **Holenarasipura,** TL&SS Division, Holenarasipura in Hassan District.

5) Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/SEE(W&M)/HSN/2023-24/05 **Tender No.** KPTCL/2023-24/SE0638. **Nomenclature:** Providing manpower services for carrying out shift operations and minor maintenance works at new 66/11kV S/s **Somanahally** (to be commissioned) in Hassan Taluk, Hassan District.

The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only. The details regarding participation in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink **"e procurement kptcl" or https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on** or **after 11.00 a.m. on 18.01.2024.** Any details required in this regard can also be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/-, Superintending Engineer, Elec., Transmission (W&M) Circle, Prasarana Bhavana, Santhepet, B.M. Road, KPTCL, Hassan-573 201. Ph: 08172-250765 Fax: 08172-250764.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The public are hereby notified that my client **G. DHANJAYA,** aged about 45 years, S/o. Sri G Gangadharaiah, residing at No.199, "Shanthi Dama" Shanti Dama School Road, Sunkadakatte, Magadi Main Road, Viswaneedam Post, Bangalore – 560 091, further he is the absolute owner of the Schedule Property hereunder and he has lost/misplaced, the original registered Gift deed Dated:23.03.2016 registered as Document No.NGB-1-09656/2015-16, Book-1, registered in the office of Sub- Registrar Nagarabhabi, Bangalore and Gift deed Dated:28.09.2017, registered as Document No.NGB-1-05188/2017-18, Book-1, registered in the office of Sub- Registrar Nagarabhabi, Bangalore in this regarding he has lodged Police Complaint on 13.01.2024, before the Bangalore City Police, vide Lost Report No.0887532/2024. In this regard any person having any right, title, interest or charge over or in the Schedule Property hereunder, may lodge their objections and /or claims with the undersigned along with supporting documentary evidence by registered post within 07 days from the date of this publication and objections and /or claims received thereafter will not be binding on my client.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Item No.1: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing **Portion of Assessment No.11/1A,** situated at Sreegandha Kavalu Village, Yashawanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, previously comes under Rajarajeshwari CMC, presently comes under administrative jurisdiction of Bruhath Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Ward No.129, Bangalore, **measuring East to West 36 feet or 10.98 meter and North to South 35 feet or 10.67, in all measuring 1260 Sq. ft., or 117.05 Sq. meter** and bounded on:

EAST BY : BRIDGE,
WEST BY : PROPERTY BELONGS TO SRI VENKATESH,
NORTH BY : PRIVATE PROPERTY,
SOUTH BY : ROAD.

Item No.2: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing **Portion of Assessment No.11/1A,** situated at Sreegandha Kavalu Village, Yashawanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, previously comes under Rajarajeshwari CMC, presently comes under administrative jurisdiction of Bruhath Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Ward No.129, Bangalore, **measuring East to West on Northern side 20 feet, on Southern side 26 feet and North to South 40 feet, in all measuring 920 Sq. ft.,** and bounded on:

EAST BY : PROPERTY BELONGS TO SMT JYOTHI,
WEST BY : BRIDGE,
NORTH BY: PRIVATE PROPERTY,
SOUTH BY : ROAD.

A.S. Rajanna, Advocate,
RE Associates,
Beside BBMP office, K.R. Puram, Bangalore-560 036.
Ph: 9845179797, 9343709554.
Email: shubhakaranraj@gmail.com

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

Follow us on @SCRailwayindia
Details of the Tender Notices of S.C Railway can be seen on our website : www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

TENDER NOTICE NO: 54/2023 Dt.12.01.2024.
SUPPLY OF STORES ITEMS
e-Procurement Tender Notice

PUB0044

The Following Tenders Have Been Floated Online. Tenders Are Requested To Visit The Website **www.ireps.gov.in** And Submit Their Offers Online. The Tender Description, Qty, EMD, SD May Be Seen In Website. Offers Submitted Manually Will Not Be Accepted. Offers By Post Will Not Be Entertained. Tender Closing Time Is 14.30 Hrs Of The Due Date Of The Tender. "For All Indigenous Offers, EMD Will Be Accepted Only Via Online System As Available On **www.ireps.gov.in.**"

Tender No.	Brief Description
LY235752	25 KV Single pole vacuum interrupter as RDSO
LY235706B	Supply & installation Aerosol based fire detection
38.23.2390A	Secondary Brake Beam
77.24.1110	Full Gloss Polyurethane Enamel , Enamel
30.24.3460	Lavatory Door Arrangement for non-AC Coaches
90.23.1156	M.S.Flats Steel Size 40x6 MM TO IS;2065/ 2011
38.23.1147B	Wide jaw Adapter
67.23.5006	Design, Supply, Instalation. Testing 500 KVA DG
6023PT173	RC for Manufacture & Supply of ER pads
17.24.1832	Overhauling Kit for Electronic Brake Value CAB
25.23.4496	Metallised Carbon Strips for Pantographs
17.24.1874	Overhauling Kit for Control portion 16 to KBIL
29.23.1437	Fire Detection Equipment No. CLW/ ES/3/0057
17.24.1801	Shim(polyutherane) Coil Spring EMD no40087273
16.24.1002	Filter fuel oil to EMD pt.No.8423132
29.23.110A	Modified single duct leather traction motor.

Note:-Due dates of Tender Opening: SL.No.01 &2on dt 25.01.2024.SL.No.03 on dt.29.01.2024 SL.No.04 to 07.on dt 30.01.2024. SL.No.08 on dt31.01.2024 SL No.09 on dt02.02.2024 SL.No 10 on dt 05.02.2024 SL No.11 to 15 on dt 06.02.2024. SL No. 16 on dt 07.02.2024

CORRIGENDUM

Tender Notice No.52/2023 dt.29.12.2023.

Tender No.60.23.9435.due on 22.01.2024. Brief. procurement of various types of Motors, valves, pump etc for the use of Track Machines. May be read as tender no.60.23.9465 Instead of existing

Beside Above Mentioned Tenders There Are Other Tenders Having Value Below **Rs.25 Lakhs.**

For Details, Please Visit Railway Website Above.

A0055 **Principal Chief Material Manager/Secunderabad**

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at https://www.ireps.gov.in or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

QuoteExpress
NEVER COMPLAIN AND NEVER EXPLAIN
BENJAMIN DISRAELI

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that our client **Mr. Binoy Antony S/o Mr.Joseph Antony** is intending to purchase the schedule property mentioned hereunder from **Mr. V.Krishnappa S/o. Mr. Venkatappa;** any person/s objecting for the proposed purchase or are having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the scheduled property is hereby called upon to file their objections/claims what so ever along with documentary proof on or before **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice with the under mentioned advocate failing which; our clients shall proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above stated person.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the land bearing **Sy No.75/1,** measuring **1 acre 15 guntas** Situated at: **Gejjeguppe Village, Vijayapura Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District** and bounded on:

East by : Papanna's Land, West by : Yadala Bachamma's Land, North by : Bandi Dari; South by : Kere Angala;

C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., LL.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants
Bangalore-43. M: 9845846428

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our clients **SYED RIYAZ PASHA**, aged about 47 years, S/o Late Syed Sab, No. 375, 10th Cross, Shastry Nagar, Thyagarajanagar, Bangalore - 560028 and **Mr. SYED SAMEER** S/o Syed Anwar, No.60/2, 3rd A 8th Main Road, New Gurappanapalya, Bangalore - 560029 have negotiated to purchase the schedule property from **Mr. ANSAR KHAN**, S/o Sri. Hafiz Khan Madina Nagar, Mangammanapalya 2nd Cross, Bommanahalli, Bangalore - 560068 and IF anybody having objections or claims for the aforesaid schedule property may lodge their objections with the undersigned in writing with supporting documents within **12 (Twelve) days** from the date of this publication. Any objections received thereafter will not be binding on my clients and If no such objections or claims are received within the said period my client will proceed to purchase the schedule property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing Site No. 22, Khatha No. 11, BBMP B Khatha Serial No. 823, Property No. 22/11, situated at Bommanahalli Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, presently coming under BBMP limits, measuring East to West 40 feet and North to South 60 feet, totally measuring 2400 Sq.ft., bounded on :

East by : Sy.No. 8/1, West by : private property, North by : Property belongs to Abdul Majid, South by : Road.

Purchasers Signature:
SYED RIYAZ PASHA & SYED SAMER
SHIVANNA, Advocate
No.28 12th Main Road, 4th Block East, Jayanagar, (Near Sub-Registrar Office), BANGALORE-560 011. Ph: (M) 9901507257
Bangalore, Date: 12-01-2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client **Sri.K.B.Yogesh** S/o Sri. K.B.Bandiputte Gowda has entered into sale agreement with Mr.Diwakar, Mr.R.Jayachandar & Smt.Usha Rani in respect of the schedule property and agreed to give vacant possession and received the advance amount. Any person who have any valid claim, demand or interest over the said property or any objections to the registration of the said sale deed by my client may file his/her objections in writing along with copies of the supporting documents duly attested with the undersigned within SEVEN DAYS from this day, failing which it will be deemed that no other person/s has any claim or agreement to sell or DTD or charge lien, otherwise or objections to the sale deed of the said property by my client and my client will complete the registration of the sale deed as if there is no such claim.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the residential building bearing site No.230, situated at 11th "B" Cross, J.P.Nagar, 2nd phase, Sarakki, BBMP Ward No.178, having PID No.57-101-230, measuring East to West 9.14 Meters and North to South 12.49 Meters, totally measuring 114.2 Square Meter, bounded on **East by:** Site No.229, **West by:** Site No.231, **North by:** Road, **South by:** Site No.195.

S.V.Manjunath, Advocate,
No.14, 13th Cross, Cubbonpet, Bangalore-2.

UJVN LIMITED

H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508
CIN No.U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website:www.ujvnl.com

Letter No:63 **e-Tender Notice** Date: 12/01/2024

Office of the Executive Engineer (E&M), Vyasi Dam, Juddo Dakpathar, UJVN Ltd. invites online bid from interested party's Brief summary of tender is given below.

NIT No : 13 /EE(E&M)/Vyasi Dam/2023-24
Name of work: Design, Drawing, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Log Boom Barrier at Vyasi Dam Site at Juddo, Dehradun
Estimated cost: Rs. 3,18,80,000.00 (GST Extra)
Date of Availbility of bid document on website: 19.01.2024 from 16:00 hrs
Last date for submission of bids on website: 09.02.2024 upto 16:00 hrs
For fuller & further details kindly visit e-procurement portal **http//uktenders.gov.in**

Executive Engineer (E&M),

"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

STATE BANK OF INDIA

Stressed Assets Management Branch, Bengaluru

Authorised Officer's Details:
Name: Smt. Jayalakshmi M.
Chief Manager (CLO-3)
E-mail ID: sbi.04209@sbi.co.in
Mobile No : 6363887241
Landline No.(office): 080-25943489

Address of the Branch: 2nd Floor, Office Complex Building, SBI LHO Campus, No. 65, St. Mark's Road, Bengaluru -560 001
Contact: Case Officer: Sandhya N.- Mb: 8291975239
Telephone: 080 -25943480, Fax No: 080-22225203,
E-mail Id: sbi.04209@sbi.co.in

APPENDIX –II A / IVA
[See proviso to Rule 6(2) & 9(1)]
E AUCTION SALE ON 22.02.2024
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF MOVABLE & IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-auction Sale Notice for Sale of Properties (Movables & Immovable Assets) Charged/Hypothecated/ Mortgaged to the Bank under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 Read with Proviso to Rule 6(2) & Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and the Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantors in particular that the below described Movable and Immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, State Bank of India, Bengaluru, the actual possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of the Bank, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis on **22.02.2024** for recovery of **Rs.22,92,51,120 /-** (Rupees Twenty Two Crores Ninety two lakhs fifty one thousand One hundred and Twenty Only) as on **09.01.2024** and further interest at contractual rate from **10.01.2024** with incidental expenses + costs, charges etc., due to the Secured Creditor, State Bank of India from the Borrower: **M/s S M Pharmaceuticals Pvt. Ltd.,** Regd. Address: No.44/8, Ground Floor, 15th Cross, Malleswaram, Bengaluru – 560003 and **Factory at:** Plot No.37/A-2, Chokkahalli Village, Pillaguppe Industrial Area, Hosakote Taluk – 562114 **AND** Guarantors, (1) **Shri Yashwanth K Raju,** S/o Shri K Doraswamy Raju, Managing Director, **(2) Shri K. Doraswamy Raju,** S/o. late Shri Narasa Raju, Director, **(3) Smt. Geetha D Raju,** W/o Shri. K Doraswamy Raju.

The Reserve price, Earnest money deposit (EMD), Bid increment amount, time & date of e-Auction for the movable & immovable assets will be as under:

S. No.	Reserve Price (below which the property will not be sold)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Bid increment amount	Time & Date of e- Auction
1	**Rs 9,92,00,000/- plus one Bid amount of Rs. 5,00,000/-**	**Rs.99,20,000/-**	**Rs.5,00,000/-**	**From 11.00 A.M. to 4.00 P.M.**

DESCRIPTION OF MOVABLE & IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

1.Tender No: SBIN000000001:
Property ID: 200030395930.
Industrial Land & Building: All that piece and parcel of the immovable industrial Plot bearing Number 37-A2 of Hoskote Industrial Area, measuring East to West 53 Meters and North to South 38 Meters, totally measuring 2014 Square Meters, situated in Survey Number 96, Part of Chokkahally Village, Kasaba Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District, E-Khatha Number 150300401200120063, Property Number 119/37-A2 consisting of factory building Ground and First floor measuring 18000 Sq. feet each, Second Floor measuring 9000 Sq. feet and chemical Storage Area of 3000 Sq. feet with RCC Roof, concrete floor including all the appurtenants, fixtures, appliances, easements, benefits etc., standing in the name of M/s S M Pharmaceuticals Pvt. Ltd. represented by (1) Shri Yashwanth K Raju, S/o Shri K Doraswamy Raju, Managing Director, (2) Shri K. Doraswamy Raju, S/o. late Shri K Narasa Raju, Director, vide Sale Deed dated 15.04.2019 and Registered as Document No.HSK-1-00438/2019-20 and CD No.HSKD739 dated 15.04.019 at SRO, Hoskote, Bengaluru and mortgaged in favour of the Bank vide Mortgage Deed dated 15.04.2019 vide Document No.HSK-1-00439 and stored in CD No.HSKD739 dated 15.04.2019 at SRO, Hosakote and the property is bounded on:
East by: Plot No.37/A1, West by : KIADB Road, North by: Plot No.37/B, South by : KIADB Road.
Note: Mortgage on the above Property extended vide extension of mortgage deed dated 08.07.2021 and Registered as Document No.YPR-1-01138/2021-22 and CD No.YPRD815 dated 08.07.2021 at SRO, Rajajinagar (Yeshwanthpura)
2.Tender No: SBIN000000002
Property ID: 200040201133
ITEM : Plant & Machinery: Plant & Machinery lying at the Factory premises at Plot No.37-A2, Hoskote Industrial Area, Survey Number 96, Part of Chokkahally Village, Kasaba Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.
Note: Detailed list of Plant & Machinery can be had from the Authorised Officer of the Bank and is also uploaded on the website www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp.

The sale shall be subject to provisions of the Secularization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
For further details regarding inspection of the property the intending bidder may contact the Authorized Officer, State Bank of India, Stressed Assets Management Branch, 2nd Floor, Office Complex Building, SBI LHO Campus, No. 65, St. Mark's Road, Bengaluru -560 001, Telephone: 080-25943470 to 3490 or Authorized Officer Smt Jayalakshmi M 6363887241/ Case Officer 8291975239.
To the best of knowledge of the Authorized Officer, there is no encumbrance on any of the above said properties. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp.

Sd/-
Place: Bengaluru **Authorised Officer**
Date: 12.01.2024 **State Bank of India, SAMB Bengaluru**

Canara Bank
A Government of India Undertaking

ARM Branch - II, 2nd Floor, Circle Office, Spencer Towers, No. 86, MG Road, Bengaluru - 560001
Ph No.: 080-25310099, 080-25310181, E-mail: cb6298@canarabank.com

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

(Under Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002)

E-Auction sale notice for sale of Immovable property under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 read with proviso to rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged /charged to the **seccured creditor,** the possession of which has been taken by the **Canara Bank, ARM Branch II Bangalore-1** will be sold **on "As is where is", "As is what is", and " Whatever there is"** on basis **18.01.2024** for recovery of outstanding dues from below mentioned Borrowers. The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit is mentioned below.

Name of Borrowers and Guarantors	Total Liabilities as per Sale Notice	Description of Immovable Assets	Auction Date & Time	Reserve Price and Earnest Money Deposit [EMD] Date & Time	1) Incremental Value at Bid 2) A/c No. & IFSC
M/S Blueclif Apparels India Pvt Ltd No. 410, Old PID No.38/56, Vaijayanth Arcade Gurusarvabhoma Nagar, ITI Layout, 3rd Phase, Opp. Gopalan Arcade, Mysore Road, Kenkeri Hobli, Bengaluru 560039 **And also at M/S Blueclif Apparels India Pvt Ltd** No 26 1st Main Road, Nayandahalli South Badavane, Kengeri Hobli, Bengaluru - 560039 **Mr. Sreejith P** S/o K K Narayana Nambiar, Kalathil Valappil House, Maruvancheri P O, Kanhilieri, Sivapuram, Kannur District, Kerala - 670702 **And also at Mr. Sreejith P** S/O Narayanan Nambiar K K, #139 Balaji Layout, Uttarahalli, Bengaluru - 562159 **Mr. Shashikantha M K** S/o M S Krishne Gowda, 2/372 Ward No 2, 2nd Cross, Vinayaka Badavane, K R Nagara, Mysuru 571602 **And also at Mr. Shashikantha M K** S/o M S Krishne Gowda, No. 67, 2nd Cross, 4th Main, Vijayashreepura, Mysore - 570006 **Mrs. Chowdamma** W/O Chandrappa No 50 Old, Church Road S T Street Marathahalli, olony Bangalore North, Bangalore, Karnataka 560037 **Mr. Shaji P** S/o K K Narayana Nambiar, Kalathil Valappil House, Maruvancheri P O, Kanhileri, Sivapuram, Kannur District Kerala - 670702	**Rs. 77424476.26** (Rupees Seven Crore Seventy Four Lakhs Twenty Four Thousand Four Hundred Seventy Six and Paise Twenty Six only) as on 31.12.2023 plus further interest thereon from 01.01.2024 along with expenses, other charges, etc.	**As per the document :** All the Part and Parcel of the property bearing BBMP Katha No. 84/81/215, CMC Katha No. 81, Old HASB Khaneshumari No. 210/69, measuring an extent of 3375 sq ft of land(East to West 45 ft, North to South 75 ft), situated at Government School Road, Marathahalli, Varthur Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, previously Mahadevapura CMC limits, presently within the jurisdiction of BBMP in Ward No. 86 and the building there on. **Bounded on: East by** Property of Ulsoor Krishnappa **West by** Property of Kanthamma **North by** Road **South by** A.K.Colony **Actual :** All the Part and Parcel of the property bearing BBMP Katha No. 84/81/215, CMC Katha No. 81, Old HASB Khaneshumari No. 210/69, measuring an extent of 2815 sq ft of land (East to West 40.75 ft, North to South 69ft), situated at Government School Road, Marathahalli, Varthur Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, previously Mahadevapura CMC limits, presently within the jurisdiction of BBMP in Ward No. 86 and the building there on. **Bounded on: East by** Property of Ulsoor Krishnappa **West by** Property of Kanthamma **North by** Road **South by** A.K.Colony	18.01.2024 Time 12.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m	**Reserve Price:** Rs. 381.65 Lakhs **EMD:** Rs. 38.20 Lakhs **before 17.01.2024 up to 3.00 pm.**	1) Multiples of Rs. 50,000/- 2) A/c No. 209272434 IFSC : CNRB0006298 **Encumbrance (s):** Not known to Bank

OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS

a. Auction / bidding shall be only through "Online Electronic Bidding" through the website www.indianbankseauctions.com. Bidders are advised to go through the website for detailed terms before taking part in the e-auction sale proceedings.
b. The property can be inspected, with Prior Appointment with Authorised Officer between 2.30 P.M to 5.00 P.M. on 16.01.2024
c. The property will be sold for the price which is more than the Reserve Price and the participating bidders may improve their offer further during auction process.
d. EMD amount of 10% of the Reserve Price is to be deposited by way of DD favouring Authorised officer, Canara Bank, ARM Branch II, Bangalore OR through online (RTGS/NEFT/Fund Transfer) to credit the account number 209272434, Canara Bank, ARM Branch II, Bangalore RTGS/NEFT CODE CNRB0006298 on or before 17.01.2024 - 3.00 PM.
e. Intending bidders shall hold a valid digital signature certificate and e-mail address. For details with regard to digital signature please contact the service provider M/s.Canbank Computer Services Ltd, Bangalore - e- mail: eauction@ccsl.co.in Contact Persons & Numbers:- Mr. Pakhare DD/Mr.Ramesh T H – 9480691777 & 8553643144.
f. After payment of the EMD amount, the intending bidders should submit a copy of the following documents/details on or before 17.01.2024 - 5.00 PM, to Canara Bank, ARM Branch - II Bangalore by hand.
   i. Demand Draft/Pay order towards EMD amount. If paid through RTGS/NEFT Acknowledgement receipt thereof with UTR No.
   ii. Photocopies of PAN Card, ID Proof and Address proof. However, successful bidder would have to produce these documents in original to the Bank at the time of making payment of balance amount of 25% of bid amount.
   iii. Bid Form.
g. The intending bidders should register their names at portal www.indianbankseauction.com and get their User ID and password free of cost. Prospective bidder may avail online training on E- auction from the service provider, M/S CANBANK COMPUTER SERVICES LTD. e- mail: eauction@ccsl.co.in Contact Persons & Numbers:- Mr.Pakhare DD/Mr.Ramesh T H – 9480691777 & 8553643144.
h. EMD deposited by the unsuccessful bidder shall be refunded to them. The EMD shall not carry any interest.
i. Auction would commence at Reserve Price, as mentioned above. Bidders shall improve their offers in multiplies of Rs.50,000/-. The bidder who submits the highest bid (not below the Reserve price) on closure of 'Online' auction shall be declared as successful bidder. Sale shall be confirmed in favour of the successful bidder, subject to confirmation of the same by the secured creditor.
j. The successful bidder shall deposit 25% of the sale price (inclusive of EMD already paid), immediately on declaring him/her as the successful bidder and the balance within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale by the secured creditor. If the successful bidder fails to pay the sale price within the period stated above, the deposit made by him shall be forfeited by the Authorised Officer without any notice and property shall forthwith be put up for sale again.
k. For sale proceeds of Rs.50.00 Lakhs (Rupees Fifty Lakhs) and above, the successful bidder will have to deduct TDS at a rate 1% or as applicable on the sale proceeds and submit the original receipt of TDS certificate to the bank.
l. All charges for Conveyance, Stamp Duty/GST/Registration Charges etc. As applicable shall be borne by the successful bidder only.
m. Authorised Officer reserves the right to postpone/cancel or vary the terms and conditions of the E-auction without assigning any reason thereof.
n. In case there are bidders who do not have access to the internet but interested in participating the E-auction, they can approach Canara Bank Circle office, Bengaluru or Canara Bank ARM II Branch, Bengaluru, who as a facilitating centre shall make necessary arrangements.
o. Bidder has to make due diligence and physical verification of property with regard to title, extent, area dues, etc. No claim subsequent to submission of bid shall be entertained by the bank.
p. For further details contact Ranjan Kumar, Chief Manager, Canara Bank , ARM Branch-2- (080-25310181) e-mail id – cb6298@canarabank.com OR the service provider M/s.Canbank Computer Services Ltd, Bangalore - e- mail: eauction@ccsl.co.in Contact Persons & Numbers:- Mr. Pakhare DD/Mr.Ramesh T H – 9480691777 & 8553643144.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTION/CAUTION

Bidding in the last minutes/seconds should be avoided by the bidders in their own interest. Neither Canara Bank nor the Service Provider will be responsible for any lapses/failure (Internet failure, Power failure, etc.) on the part of the bidder or vendor in such cases. In order to ward off such contingent situation, bidders are requested to make all the necessary arrangements/alternatives such as back –up, power supply and whatever else required so that they are able to circumvent such situation and are able to participate in the auction successfully.

Place: Bengaluru **Sd/-**
Date: 02.01.2024 **Authorised Officer, Canara Bank**

SAMEER - Centre for Electromagnetic,
SAMEER
CIT campus, Taramani, Chennai 600113
(Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology Govt of india)
www.sameer.gov.in/chennai

ADMISSION FOR WBL-LEVEL-01 PROGRAMME
Advt. No.: S-CEM/ESTT/WBL-01/2023

Society for Applied Microwave Electronics Engineering & Research (SAMEER) is a Research & Development Institute under the Administrative control of Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, Government of India.

SAMEER is implementing MeitY sponsored "Work Based Learning (WBL) Programme" to strengthen and empower fresh **B.E or B.Tech(ECE/E&TC)** candidates belonging only to SC/ST/Women/EWS categories.

Admissions are now open for Work Based Learning Programme Level-01 (WBL-01).

The contents of the full advertisement with eligibility criteria, stipend, application format, etc. are available from **https://internship.aicte-india.org/ernet.php or www.sameer.gov.in/chennai/recruitments.**

CBC_06119/12/0005/2324

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KARNATAK LINGAYAT EDUCATION SOCIETY

Lingaraj College Road, BELAGAVI – 590001, Tel.No.0831-2404040

No. : Id.Ren/8544

NOTICE

For the Renewal of Membership/Revision of Electoral Roll & obtaining New Identity Card of Membership.

In accordance with the provisions of the Constitution & Election rules of the Society, the members are required to renew their Membership / names In the Electoral Roll of the Society, by paying Rs.50/- as Renewal Fees and Rs.100/- to obtain New Identity card of the Membership to be eligible to vote & contest in the ensuing General Elections of the Society. In case the old Identity Card is not surrendered, an additional fee of Rs.100/- is payable.

The members are hereby informed to obtain the prescribed application form from KLE Society Head Office and submit the same with name and correct address, along with a Demand Draft of Rs.150/- (or In cash at the office of the undersigned) drawn in favour of "President, K.L.E. Society, Belagavi", with the existing Membership Card and two stamp sized recent photographs before 15th June, 2024.

Members who wish to obtain the application form through post, are requested to send a letter of requisition along with self-addressed envelope affixed with postal stamp of Rs.10/-.

The members who fail to renew their names in the Electoral Roll and also obtain New Identity Card, as stipulated, lose the right to contest the election and also to cast the vote in the forthcoming Society General Election.

Sd/-
(Dr. B. G. Desai)
SECRETARY,
Board of Management,
K.L.E. Society, Belagavi-590001

Belagavi.
Date : 13.01.2024

PROCLAMATION OF SALE

(Under Order XXI Rule 66)

XXXV ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE, CITY CIVIL COURT, BENGALURU (CCH-36)
F.D.P. NO. 9 / 2011

Final Decree Proceedings bearing No. 9/2011 pending before the Hon'ble XXXV Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge, Bangalore (CCH 36) arising out of the Suit bearing O.S. No. 4450/1995 for Partition and Separate Possession and for future Mesne Profits decided by the XXXVIII Addl. City Civil Judge, Bangalore vide Judgment and Decree dated 14.10.2009 in which Late K.R. Rajamma and others were Plaintiffs and Late Mr. K.L. Shivananja Murthy and others were Defendants.

Notice is hereby given that, under Rule 64 of Order XXI of the Code Of Civil Procedure, 1908, an Order has been passed by the Hon'ble XXXV Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge, Bangalore (CCH 36) in F.D.P. No. 9/2011 for the sale of the properties mentioned in the annexed Schedule, in satisfaction of the claims of the parties in the suit bearing O.S. No. 4450/1995 mentioned in the margin.

The sale will be by public auction, and the properties will be put up for sale in the lots specified in the Schedule. The sale will be of the properties of the Plaintiffs and Defendants below-named as mentioned in the Schedule below; and the liabilities and claims attaching to the said properties, so far they have been ascertained, are those specified in the Schedule against each lot.

In the absence of any order of postponement, the sale will be held by the Court Commissioner, Mr. S. Sushant Venkatesh Pai, Advocate, vide public auction on the date and time mentioned below for the respective lot at the respective location/address of the properties as mentioned hereunder (subject to the offering of the final bid before the court at the date and place mentioned hereinafter):

Dates of auction:

Lot 1: at 9 A.M. on Saturday, 03.02.2024 at the address mentioned in Lot 1 in the Schedule.
Lot 2: at 1 P.M.on Saturday, 03.02.2024 at the address mentioned in Lot 2 in the Schedule.
Lot 3: at 9 A.M. on Sunday, 04.02.2024 at the address mentioned in Lot 3 in the Schedule.
Lot 4: at 1 P.M. on Sunday, 04.02.2024 at the address mentioned in Lot 4 in the Schedule.
Lot 5: at 3 P.M. on Sunday, 04.02.2024 at the address mentioned in Lot 5 in the Schedule.
Lot 6: at 9 A.M. on Monday, 05.02.2024 at the address mentioned in Lot 6 in the Schedule.
Lot 7: at 3 P.M. on Monday, 05.02.2024 at the address mentioned in Lot 7 in the Schedule.

25% of the bid amount for each and every Lot to be paid by the highest bidder immediately to the Court Commissioner only by way of a Demand Draft drawn in favour of the 'Registrar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru', upon being declared as the purchaser at the time and date of the auction. The balance shall be payable on or before 15 (Fifteen) days from the auction date to be deposited directly before the Court.

ATTENTION: Upon default in making payment of 25% up-front payment, the property shall be re-auctioned immediately.

Upon default in making the balance payment as stipulated above, the advance 25% is liable to be forfeited and costs and expenses of the sale shall be borne by the defaulter.

The bidders are called upon to furnish proof of identity by way of their Aadhaar Card (original and self-attested copies) along with their bid to the Court Commissioner at the time of the auction.

The date for offering of Final Bid for all the Lots shall be Monday, 19.02.2024 before the Hon'ble XXV Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge (CCH-36), 3rd Floor, New Annexe Building, City Civil Court Complex, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi (Old Post Office Road), Bengaluru 560001 under Rules 138 & 139 of the Karnataka Civil Rules of Practice, 1967.

At the sale, the public generally are invited to bid, either personally or by duly authorized agent. No bid by, or on behalf of, the Plaintiffs or Defendants below-mentioned or their legal representatives, however, will be accepted, nor will any sale to them be valid without the express permission of the Court previously given. The following are the further

Conditions of Sale

1. The particulars specified in the Schedule below have been stated to the best of the information of the Court, but the Court will not be answerable for any error, mis-statement or omission in this proclamation.
2. The amount by which the biddings are to be increased shall be determined by the officer conducting the sale. In the event of any dispute arising as to the amount bid, or as to the bidder, the lot shall at once be again put up to auction.
3. The highest bidder shall be declared to be the purchaser of any lot, provided always that he is legally qualified to bid, and provided that it shall be in the discretion of the Court or officer holding the sale to decline acceptance of the highest bid when the price offered appears so clearly inadequate as to make it advisable to do so.
4. For reasons recorded, it shall be in the discretion of the officer conducting the sale to adjourn it subject always to the provisions of Rule 69 of Order XXI.
5. In the case of immovable property, the person declared to be the purchaser shall pay immediately after such declaration a deposit of 25 percent on the amount of his purchase money to the officer conducting the sale, and in default of such deposit the property shall forthwith be put up again and re-sold.
6. The full amount of the purchase money shall be paid by the purchaser before the Court closes on the fifteenth day after the sale of the property, exclusive of such day, or if the fifteenth day be a Sunday or other holiday, then on the first office day after the fifteenth day.
7. In the default of payment of the balance of purchase money within the period allowed, the property shall be re-sold after the issue of afresh notification of sale. The deposit, after defraying the expenses of the sale, may, if the Court thinks fit, be forfeited to Government and the defaulting purchaser shall forfeit all claim to the property or to any part of the sum for which it may be subsequently sold.
8. Tenants, namely, M/s. Jayalakshmi Bakery, Hotel Guru Vybhav, M.K. Ahmed Stores, M/s. Ambience Telecom, S.B. Power Products and Darshan Tyres, who are also parties to F.D.P. No. 9/2011 are in possession of separate portions of Lot 7of the schedule properties and constructive possession of Lot 7 would be handed over to the purchaser after due completion of the sale procedure.
9. Tenancy in respect of Lot 7 of the schedule properties will be attorned in favour of the purchaser after due completion of the sale procedure.
10. Interested parties are free to physically inspect the schedule properties prior to the date of public auction as per their convenience. Interested parties may also verify the available title and revenue documents for the schedule properties in the Court file in F.D.P. No. 9/2011 arising out of O.S. No. 4450/1995.
11. The Base Price for the public auction of each Lot shall be as furnished by the Petitioners and Respondents to the Court which is detailed in the table hereunder.

Given under my hand and the seal of the court on this the Twelfth day of January, 2024 at Bangalore.

Schedule of Properties

Number of Lot	Description of property to be sold, with the name of each Owner where there are more than one (Note that all properties/lots are jointly owned by Mr. Jayashankar M.L., Mrs. M.L. Devika, Mrs. Veena M.L., Mrs. Padma, Mrs. Savitha Ramakrishna, Mr. K. Srinivasa Babu, Ms. Shamitha Lokesh, Ms. Likitha Lokesh, Mrs. Hemavathi R., Ms. Rajani A.D., Mr. Rajeeva, Ms. Sandra Pulvar, Ms. Jasmine Karehalli, Mrs. Rajalakshmi Karehalli, Ms. Menaka Karehalli, Mr. Roy Von Buchwaldt, Mr. T. Neelakanta, Ms. Vinutha N., Ms. Deepika N.,Mr. K.S. Manjunath, Mrs. K.S. Girija, Mr. K.S. Shambunath, Mrs. Shashikala Hari, Mrs. Meenakshi K., Mrs. Sheela Narasimhaiah, Ms. Bharathi K., Mr. Harshith M., Mr. Varshith M., Mr. Suresh G.N., Mrs. Suchi G., Mrs. K.S. Bharathi, Mrs. K.S. Vijayalakshmi, Mr. K.S. Indushekar, Mrs. K.S. Pramila, Mr. Thejesh Kumar B.R., Ms. Nivedini H.R., Ms. Gayathri H.R., Ms. Bharathi H.R., Mrs. A.M. Bhagyalakshmi, Ms. B.M. Meghana, Mr. H.R. Shantaram, Ms. H.R. Annapurna and Ms. H.R. Swarna Gowri)	The revenue assessed upon the estate or part of the estate, if the property to be sold is an interest in an estate or a part of an estate paying revenue to Government	Details of any encumbrances to which the property is liable
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1.	The Agricultural land bearing Sy. No. 71, measuring 10 Acres 18 Guntas, situated at Mallikunte Village, Kudur Hobli, Magadi Taluk, Ramanagara District.	Rs. 13.80/-	NA
2.	The Agricultural land bearing Sy. No. 70, measuring 2 Acres 18 Guntas, situated at Mallikunte Village, Kudur Hobli, Magadi Taluk, Ramanagara District.	Rs. 3.39/-	NA
3.	The Agricultural lands lying adjacent to each other measuring 3 Acres 37 Guntas including 7 Guntas of Kharab land in Sy. No. 106/1 and 2 Acres 32 Guntas including 4 Guntas of Kharab land in Sy. No. 106/2, Karehalli Village, Tyamagondalu Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk and bounded on: East by: Lands belonging to Julappa and Laxmamma, West by: Lands belonging to Dasappa, North by: Lands belonging to Idalabyalappa, South by: Horabagilu Siringaya	Sy. No. 106/1 Rs. 6.79/- Sy. No. 106/2 Rs. 4.89/-	NA
4.	The Agricultural land measuring 4 Acres 18 Guntas in Sy. No. 75/2, Karehalli Village, Tyamagondalu Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk and bounded on: East by: Lands belonging to Horabagilu Thimaiah, West by: Lands belonging to Byalaya North by: Lands belonging to Thimmaiah, South by: Lands belonging to Gangaiah	Rs. 8.06/-	NA
5.	The Agricultural land measuring 29 Guntas in Sy. No. 75/1, Karehalli Village, Tyamagondalu Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk and bounded on: East by: Tank, West by: Gramathana, North by: Lands belonging to Byalappa, South by: Tank	Rs. 1.65/-	NA
6.	The Asbestos sheet roofed House property built on CITB site bearing No. 797, situated at 3rd Stage, Rajajinagar, now known as Prakash Nagar, Bangalore City, measuring 30' x 46' & bounded on: East by: Private Property (Site No. 14), West by: Private Property (Site No. 12), North by: Road South by: Shanbhog Naraiah's Site	NA	NA
7.	The shops and House property bearing Old No.33, New No.1, Old No. 34, New No.2, Old No.35, New No.3, situated at Bangalore City Division No. 38, Lalbagh Main Road, Subbaiah Circle, Bangalore 560027, excluding the land acquired by BCC for the purpose of widening Lalbagh Main Road, measuring site area of 3,816 Sq. Ft. after acquisition by the BCC (now known as the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike) and bounded on: East by: Government Pharmacy College, West by: Lalbagh Main Road, North by: Government Pharmacy College, South by: B. Srinivas' Private Property	NA	NA

Claims, if any, which have been put forward to the property and any other known particulars bearing on its nature and value	The value of the property as stated by the Petitioners in F.D.P. No. 9/2011	The value of the property as stated by the Respondents in F.D.P. No. 9/2011
(5)	(6)	(7)
Lot 1: Two open wells are there, one which is dried and the other with sufficient water; Coconut trees, Mango trees, Temple Taare Mara and Nerale Mara are being grown	Rs. 25,00,000/- per Acre Total base value for auction: Rs. 2,61,25,000/-	Rs. 25,00,000/- per Acre Total base value for auction: Rs. 2,61,25,000/-
Lot 2: One dilapidated house structure present; Sapota, Jackfruit, Coconut and Mango trees along with Ragi/Rice crops are being grown	Rs. 25,00,000/- per Acre Total base value for auction: Rs.61,25,000/-	Rs. 25,00,000/- per Acre Total base value for auction: Rs.61,25,000/-
Lot 3: Sy. No. 106/1 Ragi crops are being grown Sy. No. 106/2 One dilapidated building; One big open dried well is there; 20 Coconut trees and Jackfruit trees as well as Ragi and Jowar crops are being grown	Rs. 35,00,000/- per Acre Total base value for auction: Rs. 2,35,37,500/-	Rs. 35,00,000/- per Acre Total base value for auction: Rs. 2,35,37,500/-
Lot 4:Ragi crops are being grown	Rs. 35,00,000/- per Acre Total base value for auction: Rs. 1,55,75,000/-	Rs. 35,00,000/- per Acre Total base value for auction: Rs. 1,55,75,000/-
Lot 5: Ragi crops are being grown	Rs. 35,00,000/- per Acre Total base value for auction: Rs. 25,37,500/-	Rs. 35,00,000/- per Acre Total base value for auction: Rs. 25,37,500/-
Lot 6: Threeunauthorized temporary asbestos sheet structures put up by unknown persons	Rs. 12,000/- per Sq. Ft. Total base value for auction: Rs.1,65,60,000/-	Rs. 12,000/- per Sq. Ft. Total base value for auction: Rs.1,65,60,000/-
Lot 7: Tenants, namely, M/s. Jayalakshmi Bakery, Hotel Guru Vybhav, M.K. Ahmed Stores, M/s. Ambience Telecom, S.B. Power Products and Darshan Tyres, are in possession of the shops adjoining Lalbagh Main Road; The Legal Representatives of Late Mr. K.L. Shivananja Murthy are in possession of the house portion	Rs. 22,000/- per Sq. Ft. Total base value for auction: Rs.8,39,52,000/-	Rs. 22,000/- per Sq. Ft. Total base value for auction: Rs.8,39,52,000/-

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"The assault on the senses. The caress of the senses. Surely god made India at his leisure

Gita Mehta

THREE DECADES OF THE INFORMATION SUPERHIGHWAY

THE THIRD EYE

SHANKKAR AIYAR
Author of *The Gated Republic*, *Aadhaar: A Biometric History of India's 12 Digit Revolution*, and *Accidental India*
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THIRTY years ago, on January 11, over two dozen leaders from government, academia and communications met at the University of California at a futuristic conference titled 'The Superhighway Summit'. Curiously, it was organised by Richard Frank of the Academy of Television, Arts and Sciences. On cue, Al Gore, then the US vice president, quipped, "Nothing has happened unless it is on television." In 2024, you could say, nothing has happened unless it is on the internet, on social media.

The evolution of the internet has a long history. The Superhighway Summit was in a sense the beginning of the internet superhighway, the kick-start of the internet economy. The birth of NCSA Mosaic and Netscape in 1994, followed by Microsoft Windows Explorer opened up the World Wide Web to users. From hesitant and small beginnings, the internet economy soared globally.

In 2024, the median age of the world is estimated at around 30.5 years. Effectively, half the world's 8-plus-billion population is born in the age of the internet. The number of web riders across the world over is estimated to be over 5.3 billion and is growing. Google, the noun, is also a verb for seeking answers, the web is not necessarily the thing spiders weave, streams carry movies and music, socialising doesn't require leaving the couch, expressions are abbreviated, trolls are not mythical creatures. Almost every prediction made by Isaac Asimov is on touchscreens.

The arc of transformation is strikingly short. Some of the most used applications and the largest internet-based corporations came up in recent history—till 1994 Amazon was a river quietly flowing in South America. Alphabet was the descriptor of letters in a fixed order. Uber was not a ride, just an adjective. Meta (formerly Facebook), X (formerly Twitter), the ubiquitous WhatsApp, Spotify, ByteDance, DoorDash, JD.com, Shopify, Booking.com, Airbnb and Netflix are the Gen Z of the corporate world.

The Indian perspective illustrates the amplification of penetration. Although Alexander Graham Bell received the patent for the telephone in 1876, two-thirds of Indians didn't have a phone till the 1990s. The internet itself was made available by VSNL in August 1995. Today, over 1.2 billion Indians are mobile phone users, nearly 800 million Indians are internet users and e-commerce is the most competitive domain. Over 535 million are on WhatsApp and around a fifth of the 2.7 billion YouTube viewers are in India.

Nothing quite illuminates the exponential impact of the internet as the use of online financial transactions. India's digital public infrastructure—thanks to the Aadhaar identity platform—is now the model and envy of the developing world. The data under the hood says it all. Take financial transactions. The National Payments Corporation of India recorded over 499 million IMPS transfers in December 2023. The ubiquitous scan-and-pay UPI platform notches over 11.5 billion transactions in a month.

The contribution of the internet to global economic growth is a continuing debate—in 2011, studies by McKinsey surmised that there were 2 billion internet users and the internet economy contributed around $8 trillion. A recent World Bank report estimates that the digital economy contributes to more than 15 percent of the global gross domestic product and that it has been growing two-and-a-half times faster than the physical world GDP. The potential and dividend is visible in the market valuation of internet companies—$7.5 trillion as per companiesmarketcap.com—listed on Wall Street.

The adoption of technology is accelerated by events. The pandemic converted sceptics on the benefits of tele-tutoring, telemedicine and hybrid work weeks. Surveys suggest roughly a third of the workforce has adopted hybrid work schedules. As companies struggle to get folks back into office, jobs are routinely advertised as remote and hybrid, besides onsite. The wars in Ukraine and in the Middle East have expanded the use of net-enabled offensive and defensive capabilities. Unsurprisingly, unmanned aerial vehicles and cybersecurity are among the rising stars in the military industrial complex.

Meanwhile, the world is on the brink of what British entrepreneur-innovator Mustafa Suleyman calls the coming wave. Private equity funds, companies and governments are pouring over $200 billion to get ready for the next big leap—the launch of user-case defined applications in generative AI and artificial general intelligence. The promise of the potential is reflected in the valuations of the Magnificent Seven—which, as per Torsten Slok of Apollo Global Management, is more than the combined market cap of the stock markets of Japan, Canada and the UK.

AI holds much hope—particularly in levelling asymmetries of access, skills and opportunities. It also triggers fears of economic, political and existential consequences. The possible retrenchment of human interface has implications for nation states. At the political level, the fear is about fuelling polarisation and expansion of the constituency of angst and grief on social media.

The existential threat articulated by the pioneers of AI is very real and demands regulatory guardrails. There are no guarantees, but the path laid down by the International Atomic Energy Agency for nuclear installations could be a good template. It could be scaffolded by a sanctions regime and a warning system, like for tsunamis, if and when systems go rogue. This and more may be required and calls for global coordination. If global leaders can't get it right, they could consult an AI interface!

INDIA MUST BE TRAVELLERS' COUNTRY OF DESIRE

POWER & POLITICS

PRABHU CHAWLA
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WHEN Narendra Modi sneezes, Maldives gets a cold. Millions of Indians, tour operators and airlines have given the cold shoulder to the island nation after three of its ministers dissed the Indian PM walking along the pristine sands of Lakshwadeep, shawl fluttering in the ocean breeze as he resolutely looked ahead, framed against the deep blue sky. As photos of him scuba diving or ruminating on a chair on the sea shore flooded the internet, the pro-Chinese Mohamed Muizzu's Cabinet members jeered at India's tourist infrastructure. Indians saw it as an attack on their beloved PM. 'Boycott Maldives' trended online. It was just another day in the life of Modi, whose mission is to be India's ambassador diplomatically and geopolitically; now for tourism.

Modi is the maestro of symbolism. The social media blitz around his stroll created a massive buzz extolling the virtues of Indian beaches. Geopolitically, it was seen as Modi's subtle attempt to promote the heavenly, unspoilt Lakshadweep as an alternative travel destination. The mockery and abuse prompted such a furious backlash from Indian celebs, corporate leaders and big-spending Bollywood bigwigs that Muizzu was forced to sack his three foul-mouthed ministers. After all, over one out of nine tourists to the island are Indians. Indian superstars who rarely holiday in India have now sworn to promote Indian beaches by urging Indians to ##ExploreIndianIslands. Union tourism minister G Kishan Reddy wrote on X, "The tremendous response transcending cultures and continents underscores the potential of India's domestic tourism." The minister's remarks provoked a debate over why India has so far failed to be one of the top 10 tourist destinations.

Can India be a global destination?

With its 5,000-year-old culture and history, India is well ahead of many nations in offering destinations from forts to rivers, temples to churches, forests to wildlife, culinary miracles to handicrafts, and from a royal past to modern metropolises. It has over 7,000 km of coastline and over 1,000 forts that provide a glimpse of India's regal past. India has the advantage of a massive English-speaking population, which many other attractive, tourist-friendly nations lack. It's ironical that over 20 million Indians go abroad as against less than 7 million foreigners who visit India every year. During the past decade, India has added over a dozen world class airports. It has upgraded over 100 railways stations, added multi-lane expressways and transformed many cities into better habitats. India provides unlimited cultural diversity and a vast variety of folk entertainment. However, at present it ranks not even in the top 20 global tourist destinations.

ANI

Is India doing enough?

Not as much as it ought to. There is hardly any comprehensive tourism policy to promote Destination India worldwide. While private players are always belabouring the government for tax concessions, subsidised land and access to every government office and officials, they've done squat to sell India abroad as a stellar travel destination. All of them only promote the World Economic Forum at Davos and spend lavishly. The Indian government liberally finances business forums like the CII and FICCI to organise tony dinners and meetings at ski resorts.

On the other hand, most state governments hardly allocate enough funds to promote their states and India as a travel magnet. The Union tourism ministry's budget is a meagre ₹2,400 crore ($300 million) for the entire year. It is less than the publicity budget of Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi and Telangana. In the past, the lead was taken by a state like Kerala which burnished itself as a mesmerising destination under the legendary slogan, 'God's own country'. Later, Gujarat under Modi deployed superstar Amitabh Bachchan as its tourism ambassador; he did a fantastic job by asking Indians, "*Kuchh din Gujarat mein bita kar to dekho* (See how a few days in Gujarat feel like)." Assam and Uttarakhand chose stars such as Akshay Kumar, Priyanka Chopra and Kangana Ranaut to promote their states, but failed to create an intense impact because their messages weren't aggressively accompanied by activity. Most of them rarely spend time holidaying in states they are hired to amplify. Many fly abroad to get married and post their holiday pictures on Instagram to make more money than they expect from state governments.

Of late, Modi has been taking a personal interest in promoting both domestic and international tourism around India by using social media extensively. He has been asking Indians to visit Indian holiday spots. But government officials haven't created enough hype to match Modi's moxie to attract foreign tourists.

Even Islamic countries such as Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Oman and the UAE have employed innovative techniques to attract tourists. Saudi Arabia has been boosting its tourism by hard-selling its village heritage. The @Visit Saudi X handle posted: "The quaint mountain village of Rijal Almaa is a hidden gem surrounded by green landscapes where you can see some of the country's most charming historical architecture and culture." Oman is equally proud of its past. Its X handle proudly declared: "It is the best time of the year to visit #MuttrahFort... to enjoy the cool breeze with a cup of hot coffee and a dazzling view that brings together the scent of the ancient past and the prosperous present."

It is surprising that Indian officials, celebs, poltical leaders and business tycoons who frequently vacay in glamorous destinations haven't been able to learn from these strategies and communicate their efficacy to the Indian government.

What are the roadblocks?

India's cumbersome, bloated bureaucracy, the rising influence of foreign-funded eco terrorists, and a shortage of funds are causing maximum damage to the growth of tourism. Over the past 50 years, Indian mandarins have imposed more restrictions on creating modern tourist facilities in the name of protecting environment and wildlife.

A tiny island like Maldives has over 1,000 resorts built on the edge of the sea. Hotels, restaurants and water sports facilities embellish beaches worldwide. But Indian laws require over 40 clearances to set up even a small restaurant or a guest house near a beach or a semi-forested area. Access to historical monuments like the Taj Mahal is becoming more and more tortuous. Even forests have been vaguely defined. According to a Supreme Court judgement, if grass is grown inside a protected area, it would be a deemed forest. Rail and air connectivity is another major roadblock for tourism. India's filthy public utilities, unsafe roads and unhealthy surroundings are deterrents too. Most Indian hill stations are becoming urban slums.

Tragically, Indians have failed to realise the economic and strategic importance of the tourism industry. Indians are obsessed with automobiles and mobiles instead. Obstacles are to Modi what a bugle is to a war horse. As India's most powerful ambassador, it's his next challenge after marketing India's spirituality through yoga, soft power through vaccines and military power through Balakot, to make his visits to the country's most alluring and exotic destinations into postcards of fascination. India's message to the world is *Atithi devo bhava* (The guest is god). India cannot be a *vishvaguru* if it remains marooned on the island of apathy. The land which fascinated Hiuen Tsang and Ibn Battuta must become an enigmatic subcontinent of allure.

CONFERENCE PLANNING NEEDS A CONFERENCE

OPINION

ANURADHA GOYAL
Author and founder of IndiTales
Follow her on X.com @anuradhagoyal

THE G20 summit last year brought a flurry of high-visibility conferences around India. Since the 1990s' economic liberalisation, conferences have dominated the corporate world. They are an excellent way for industry experts to come together and share their knowledge, dwell on challenges, provide and seek support, and network for new opportunities.

Then came the Jaipur Literature Festival, which brought authors and readers to the same space and made them interact. Both sides loved it so much that every nook of India now has a literature festival. I have been to a few of them as a speaker and few as a bibliophile.

Oh, how I used to get excited about speaking gigs—they are, after all, an opportunity to connect with your audience, reach new audience and share your thoughts in person. I would have many questions for the organisers, which almost never got answered. I like to know about the audience so that I can prepare my script accordingly. Never ever did I get a straight answer—even when the audience was students, a well-defined group.

You know the general theme, but you rarely know your specific topic in advance. What you want to speak is usually left to you. Now, you can take it as an opportunity to blow your trumpet, which is what most entrepreneurs and marketing people end up doing—their presentation deck is always ready. The rest of us, who want to share our learnings and opinions, just say what we want.

Curation is usually the last priority. Only once were we introduced for a panel discussion well in time and the chair took the effort to discuss the key points we wanted to highlight. Many a time, we come of know of our co-panellists when me meet on stage. People are randomly clubbed together with the hope that they would somehow manage to pull together a 30-to-60-minute session. Session titles target all the buzzwords of the season.

Organisers aim for VIPs or celebrities whose dates are not easy to get. So you always keep juggling your schedules till the last minute. Now when I see an event where too many high-profile people are being advertised, I know only some of them may join. Organisers are also aware of it, but they just use the big names to make the event look high-profile.

What else explains the presence of Bollywood stars at lit fests? The crowds come and go with them. Are you able to keep that crowd for the conversations on intended topics? I do not think so.

I wonder what organisers get out of these haphazard conversations. Is it just another business that runs on the sponsor's money? These events work well for institutes that have a mandate to host a certain number of them.

The irony is that the online and offline worlds are full of coaches teaching us how to be an effective speaker in a country that has the longest living tradition of public debates and conversations. The *Mahabharata* tells us about debates in the court of Janaka that say that the best discourses happen when the speaker, listener and words are aligned. Do we have genuine platforms that let debates flourish to push the boundaries of knowledge?

Conferences have proliferated, but most of them are put together in a haphazard manner. Participants aren't given a clear idea of the audience or even their co-panellists in advance

The top shelf of my library is full of mementos received at these events. They belong to the times when events were rare and your presence at them added a feather to your cap. No harm in carrying forward the tradition, but can we put a little more thought into them. What a great opportunity it is to showcase local products, be it millets or handicrafts, and make the money spent meaningful for everyone. However, someone in the corporate gifting business once told me that everyone orders at the last minute, so they must pick what is instantly available. Gifting companies stock what can be sold to anyone at a short notice. That explains the mugs, t-shirts and shawls.

As a participant or a speaker, my main motivation comes from meeting new people, networking and learning. There is so much more that can be achieved. I have attended conferences on culture and craft where not a single craftsman was present, despite being in a location full of them. For local tourism boards, it is a great platform to showcase the destination, its cuisine and culture, or local businesses. Most importantly, it is a great opportunity to let young students interact with achievers. I have often suggested to organisers that I would like to do workshops for students, especially when the event is in an educational institute, but this is yet to fructify.

Sponsors and stakeholders need to take note of this lost opportunity. People who put their money into these events need to ensure they create the desired impact on the society in general and the audience in particular.

QUOTE CORNER

This is the first genocide in history where its victims are broadcasting their own destruction in real time in the desperate and so far vain hope that the world might do something. The world should be absolutely horrified. The world should be absolutely outraged.

Blinne Ní Ghrálaigh, Irish lawyer who is advising South Africa on its genocide case against Israel at the International Court of Justice

The US and UK are trying to turn the Red Sea into a sea of blood, and Yemen, with the Houthis and by using all of its force, says it will give the necessary response.

Tayyip Erdogan, president of NATO member country Turkey, after Western forces bombed what they claimed to be Houthi targets in Yemen

People need to be educated that it is their son, and not their daughter-in-law, whose chromosomes will decide if it's a daughter or a son.

Swarana Kanta Sharma, Delhi High Court judge, ruling on a case of dowry death

MAILBAG WRITE TO letters@newindianexpress.com

Aligned thoughts

Kajal Basu's column was an excellent exploration of the concept of active non-alignment. Let's see if this movement flourishes and comes to acquire a weightier global presence like its predecessor. It's an open question whether its ideational fluidity will create the organisational cohesiveness needed. However, I am glad Jorge Heine and his co-authors have given it a good launch.

Prof Daniel Drache, Toronto

Unmotherly conduct

The shocking incident of a mother allegedly killing her own 4-year-old child in Goa is extremely heart-wrenching and inhuman. I am still not able to understand how a mother could even think of executing such a heinous crime. Irrespective of differences between husband and wife, personal problems or work pressure, a child can never be a burden to the mother. If someone still feels like this, then I seriously doubt whether the person is a mother or a monster in disguise.

Abhilash A, Chitradurga

Deflecting censure

Ref: *MT's autocracy speech continues to reverberate* (Jan 13). There can be no two views about what M T Vasudevan Nair told Pinarayi Vijayan during the inaugural function of the Kerala Literature Festival. The CM's entourage are experts in interpreting a condemnation as an accolade or something entirely meant for others. As a result, the well-meaning writer himself is driven to confusion when he reads the morning paper to know the reaction of the ruling LDF in Kerala.

S Lakshmi, Hyderabad

Cult caution

M T Vasudevan Nair's caution against the phenomenon of heaping too much praise on leaders and hero-worshipping them must be taken in the right spirit (*MT's speech a call for introspection*, Jan 13). The writer might not have been alluding to any particular leader; he may have just wanted to bring his audience's attention to the growing tendency to idolise leaders in general. After all, leaders are human like us and it would be 'dehumanising' to them and us when they are over-glorified.

G David Milton, Maruthancode

Weighty words

As an orator, MT is a man of few words. Whenever he says something, every citizen discusses the matter. His latest speech is no exception. Instead of defending one another, if anyone has a guilty conscience, he should come forward to mend the path. Too much of anything is good for nothing.

Sarojini Hariharan, email

Commission question

While refusing to stay the new law for appointment of election commissioners (*TNIE*, Jan 13), the Supreme Court issued notices to the Centre and the Election Commission for their response. It is clear that the issue is not closed but scheduled for further examination. As it will be relevant only when the time comes for appointment of the next ECs/CEC, a stay now would be infructuous. The court will have to decide whether to strike down the law, which is a serious decision and needs detailed examination.

Raju Mathai, Kochi

Pious occasion

"Ram Mandir in Ayodhya is our creation," member of parliament and Shiv Sena spokesperson Sanjay Raut said at a recent press conference. However, some people are striving to pigment this religious occasion with political colour. When a religious occasion becomes a political spectacle, then even a darshan of Ram Lalla will perhaps be a show of strength and not a sacred exercise of piety. This occasion should remain far from politics.

Ibne Farooq, Ausanpur

Inclusive textbooks

The University Grants Commission's decision to release undergraduate textbooks in 12 Indian languages is commendable. This step promotes vernacular languages, enhancing educational accessibility for a broader demographic regardless of English proficiency.

Rochelle Mary Marshall, Bengaluru

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POSTS OF THE DAY

Pralhad Joshi @JoshiPralhad
For those entering underground mining through commercial coal mining, a 50% discount on revenue will be offered.

P Chidambaram @PChidambaram_IN
I was amused how a thinking, liberal, secular person and foreign service officer (like Dr S Jaishankar) can become an uncritical, revisionist and partisan minister in a relatively short period.

Asaduddin Owaisi @asadowaisi
No political party is talking about December 6, the egregious criminal act of demolishing a centuries old Masjid. The whole conversation is now about whether they'll attend or not.

Nobody can bully us: Maldives Prez after China visit

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

IN what is being viewed as an obvious reference to India, Maldives President Dr Mohamed Muizzu, after returning from his first official visit to China, commented that his nation will not permit being bullied by others.

"We may be (a) small (nation), but that does not give you the license to bully us," said Muizzu, while interacting with media at Velana airport on his return from China.

Though we have small islands in the Indian Ocean, we have a vast exclusive economic zone of 9 lakh sqkm. Maldives is one country with the biggest share of this ocean

Dr Mohamed Muizzu, Maldives President

No official response has been issued by India yet, as despite the obvious reference to the country, it has not been named.

Muizzu also said that the Indian Ocean does not belong to any specific country.

"Though we have small islands in the ocean, we have a vast exclusive economic zone of 9,00,000 square kilometres. Maldives is one country with the biggest share of this ocean," he said, adding, the ocean does not belong to a specific country, but to all countries situated in it.

In response to a question whether his country was situated in India's backyard, Muizzu replied that Maldives is not in anyone's backyard, and is an independent and sovereign state.

He further appreciated China, as it did not interfere in Maldives' internal affairs. "China will not exert its influence on the domestic affairs of Maldives," he said.

China has pledged $130 million in grant in assistance to the Maldives, the bulk of which will be spent in redeveloping the roads in Male. More than 20 agreements were signed between Maldives and China during Muizzu's visit to the country.

Meanwhile, it may be recalled that India and Maldives had a standoff when three deputy ministers of Maldives used derogatory words against Prime Minister Narendra Modi last week. Though the three ministers were suspended, it led to a war of words on social media between India and Maldives.

Qatar grants consular access to 8 Naval veterans today

First time since the case was sent to Cassation court in Doha

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

QATAR'S Ministry of Interior has agreed to grant another consular access — the fifth since their detention on August 30, 2022 — to the eight Indian naval veterans on Sunday.

This is the first consular access since the case was moved to the Cassation court after their death penalty was commuted to prison terms last month. The last consular access was granted on December 3, 2023.

"Even though the death penalty has been commuted to separate prison terms for the naval veterans, we are extremely concerned about their health. We had been hoping for a consular access and heaved a sigh of relief when we learnt it will happen on January 14. With continuous confinement, the health of many has been compromised, some have lost excessive weight due to diabetes and blood pressure issues, while others have mental health issues, but our only hope is repatriation," said a source.

While families of those who are in Qatar are allowed weekly meetings, once a week or sometime twice a week phone calls are permitted for families back home in India.

"Families have also been seeking an appointment to meet External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, and though some tentative dates were given (January 3 and 7) it didn't materialise due to his hectic schedule. However, they are continuously putting in requests for the same," the source added.

While the family members have filed papers for the appeal, they aren't aware yet on when the first hearing would take place in the Cassation Court.

The Cassation court is a high-instance court – which is the highest court of appeal.

The eight naval veterans who are awaiting repatriation are Captain Navtej Singh Gill, Captain Saurabh Vashisht, Commander Purnendu Tiwari, Captain Birendra Kumar Verma, Commander Sugunakar Pakala, Commander Sanjeev Gupta, Commander Amit Nagpal and Sailor Ragesh.

Representative Photo

Worsening health of jailed men a concern

"Even though the death penalty has been commuted to separate prison terms for the naval veterans, we are extremely concerned about their health. We had been hoping for a consular access. With continuous confinement, the health of many has been compromised, some have lost excessive weight due to diabetes and blood pressure issues, while others have mental health issues," said a source privy to information.

RASHID KHAN

THE USTAD WHO HAD AN AURA OF MODERNITY

AMITAVA SANYAL

Soumyadip Sinha

I had been slowly moving towards the middle of Netaji Indoor Stadium all night long. It was an overnight charity concert and the stage faced one long side of the oblong floor in Kolkata. A bunch of us college-going friends had volunteered as ushers to listen to the who's who of Hindustani and Carnatic music. The lineup included Bhimsen Joshi, Balamurali Krishna, Jasraj, Hariprasad Chaurasia, Amjad Ali Khan, Ajoy Chakraborty and Sunanda Patnaik. But I was waiting for one artist, Rashid Khan, and wanted to be within his earshot when he came on.

Here was a man just a few years older than us, who had mesmerised his way into the greying pantheon of classical music. We had been hearing his first two albums over and over again — Behag, Lalit and Desh for Sagarika, and Hamsadhwani, Yaman and Puriya Dhanashree for Music Today. We were transfixed. But not everyone agreed yet that he had earned his plumes to be called an ustad.

When Rashid came on, I was facing the stage. He first sang Saraswati, which he had released a few weeks earlier. As soon as the claps died, I blurted out, "Hamsadhwani, please." As if on perfect cue, he started on *Laagi lagan prati sakhi sang*. An enraptured hush descended on the stadium.

As a young boy, Rashid Khan didn't dream of becoming a singer. His mother had passed away when he was four and he was more interested in ghazals. His maternal uncle, Ghulam Mustafa Khan, took him to Mumbai, enrolled him in an English-medium school, and trained him a bit. But he didn't quite fit in and was sent to train with his 'Babu Abba', Ustad Nissar Hussain Khan, in Badayun.

The great ustad, who is credited with having perfected the tarana, went about training by old-school methods — stressing just a few notes for more than a year. The restless child got bored and used to stay away from gurukul for months. Nissar Hussain trained him just enough to pass the test at Sangeet Research Academy in Kolkata, a residential training centre. This is where, under the guidance of A T Kanan, Malavika Kanan, Vijay Kichlu, Ajoy Chakraborty and Dipali Nag, Rashid found his voice.

What made him give up his reluctance to get into classical music? Rashid told me it was a fear his uncles that had struck in him. They had pointed to some of his cousins in Badayun who were training to become qawwals, and said it's the fate that awaited him. He didn't like it and made up his mind to go through the slow grind of becoming an ustad.

We were in his south Kolkata home — a sprawling compound named 'Shree' — almost a decade and a half ago. His son Armaan, then of the age his father was in Mumbai, was fiddling with his gaming console across a glass wall. Rashid's wife Joyeeta was chiding him to start with his *riyaaz*. "Like father, like son?" I asked. Rashid said, "He'll come around when it's time." Not only did Armaan come around, but blessed with his father's timbre, he is on his way to becoming an ustad in his own right.

NEWSMAKER

I asked whether he had had any brush with Carnatic, given that he sang raags such as Hamsadhwani, which Amir Khan had first popularised in the Hindustani repertoire. He said with a chuckle, "Their notes sway a lot." Yet, a few years after this conversation, he collaborated with T M Krishna in Pune, *kampaka gamaka* notwithstanding.

His openness to other forms is one of the things that made Rashid Khan accessible to a wider audience. It led to filmy hits, too. But as @stereotypewriter noted on X.com, "Introducing Ustad Rashid Khan as the '*oge Jab Tum singer* is akin to introducing Sachin Tendulkar as the guy who appeared in RO commercials."

The conviction in his voice drew a line between gamak and gimmickry. His choice of bandishes — *Dekh dekh man lalchaye* for Sohini, or *Kanha re Nande nandan* for Kedar — set a different mood than the same raag rendered by most others. His gharana Rampur-Sahaswan's style of launching into a khayal without much alaap made the casual listener sit up before being lulled by a slow build-up.

He was steeped in traditions, yet had an aura of modernity. Once the future of Hindustani classical, the ustad is today a part of its illustrious past.

BJP goes to drawing board, plans 2 rallies to focus on women voters

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

GIVEN the high percentage of women voters in various elections, the BJP is working to organise two mega women conferences this month.

The party's women's wing, the Mahila Morcha, is busy finalising the logistics as well as mobilising its cadre. Sources said these conferences will take place in two prominent cities — one each in South and North India. The theme will be Modi government's welfare measures for women and their empowerment.

The first conference is likely in Andhra's Vijayawada and the second in Madhya Pradesh, wherein schemes like Ladli Behna helped the party to retain power in recent assembly polls.

"Women voters form half of the total voters and their participation in the electoral exercise is growing in every election. The BJP aims to polarise more than 70-80 per cent of their votes for the LS elections. The party's outreach is meant to make them aware of their rights under the Modi government," said a senior BJP functionary. One of these conferences, to be attended by at least 25,000 women, would have PM Modi's participation.

The second conference would be attended by home minister Amit Shah and state party chief JP Nadda. "BJP wants to ensure participation of all women public representatives from panchayat to Parliament levels," said a senior BJP leader.

Sources said the Mahila Morcha is also encouraging transgenders to attend the programme. "The party has also mobilised activists for 'smart women conferences' in all states with the participation of prominent personalities and professionals. We are also contacting first-time women voters to whom we convey the Modi government's works done in nine years," said a party leader.

Sources said the BJP is persuading women voters as to how their vote is marking a major shift in India's electoral history. "In terms of numbers, the BJP could be focusing on 33 crore women voters in the LS election," said a leader.

Representative Photo

Get involved in politics, Nadda tells youth

BJP chief JP Nadda on Saturday launched 'Namo Navmatdata' campaign from the party headquarters, calling upon the new voters to get involved in politics for the country's development. He said PM Modi has heralded an era of developmental politics and the youth, especially first-time voters, must associate themselves as ambassadors of this development. As part of this drive, Modi will also virtually interact with 50 lakh new voters from 5,000 locations on January 24.

Kejriwal meets Kharge, Rahul to sort out Punjab seat-sharing formula

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

HOURS after the INDIA bloc named Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge as the chairperson of the alliance, AAP chief and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal visited the latter at his residence in Delhi.

The meeting assumes significance as both sides have been holding seat-sharing talks for Delhi and other states.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, AAP Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha, and All India Congress Commitee general secretary KC Venugopal were also present in the meeting.

The meeting also sparked speculation that seat-sharing between the two sides has been finalised for all states, except Punjab.

It also came on a day when the Enforcement Directorate issued a fourth summons to Kejriwal asking him to appear before it on January 18 in the Delhi excise policy case.

However, speaking to the media after the meeting, Venugopal said seat-sharing talks did not figure in the meeting.

"It was only a courtesy meeting with the Delhi Chief Minister, Rahul Gandhi and the Congress president," he said.

On Friday, leaders of both parties held a two-hour meeting at Congress leader Mukul Wasnik's house. Sources described the meeting as positive.

Mallikarjun Kharge & Arvind Kejriwal

Sources said in Delhi, the parties have reached an agreement that out of the seven parliamentary seats, Congress will contest three and AAP four. In Punjab, an alliance is unlikely, said sources, adding Congress and AAP will contest against each other in the border state.

In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the Congress secured eight of 13 seats while AAP won only one seat in Punjab. However, in the 2022 assembly polls, AAP swept the state. Sources said that since the BJP is on a weak wicket in Punjab, both Congress and AAP don't feel the need to join hands.

Leaders of both parties were working to thrash out a seat-sharing formula for Gujarat, Goa, and Haryana.

Growing ties: UK ships to make beeline at Indian dockyards after Feb exercise

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

IN an impressive milestone towards strengthening India-United Kingdom (UK) bilateral military relationship, the UK Navy warships will undergo maintenance and repair at Indian dockyards.

"The Littoral Response Group plans to conduct maritime exercises with the Indian Navy soon. Once the exercise gets over, the warships will be docked for maintenance and repair in India," sources said.

Last year, the Royal Air Force (RAF) aircraft had carried out refuelling twice at the Indian air bases. It included the four Typhoons and one Voyager, making a refuelling stop in Hyderabad in September 2023, in a sign of a deepening military partnership between India and the United Kingdom. The RAF is the UK's air and space force.

The US Navy has been the first force which got its ships undergo repairs in India with

the US Navy Ship (USNS) Charles Drew undergoing repair and allied services in Chennai in August 2022. USNS Matthew Perry was the second ship of the US Navy to complete maintenance works in India in March 2023.

On Wednesday, the British High Commission (BHC) had confirmed the plans to send the UK's high-readiness Littoral Response Group to Indian Ocean Region in 2024, and the Carrier Strike Group in 2025 for a joint training.

"Deployment of the UK's most advanced naval capabilities mark a decisive step in bolstering UK-India security ties." said BHC. The statement was made while Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh was in the UK becoming the first to visit the UK after George Fernandes in 2002.

These steps build on the comprehensive strategic partnership envisaged in the 2030 India-UK roadmap. It was in May 2021, that the then British PM Boris Johnson and PM Narendra Modi adopted an ambitious 'Roadmap 2030' to elevate bilateral ties to a 'Comprehensive Strategic Partnership'.

"In the coming years, the UK and India will also embark on more complex exercises between their respective militaries, building up to a landmark joint exercise to be conducted before the end of 2030," said BHC.

Govt says no decision yet on HPV vaccine launch

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

THE government on Saturday said that they are yet to take a decision on the roll out of the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination campaign against cervical cancer in the country.

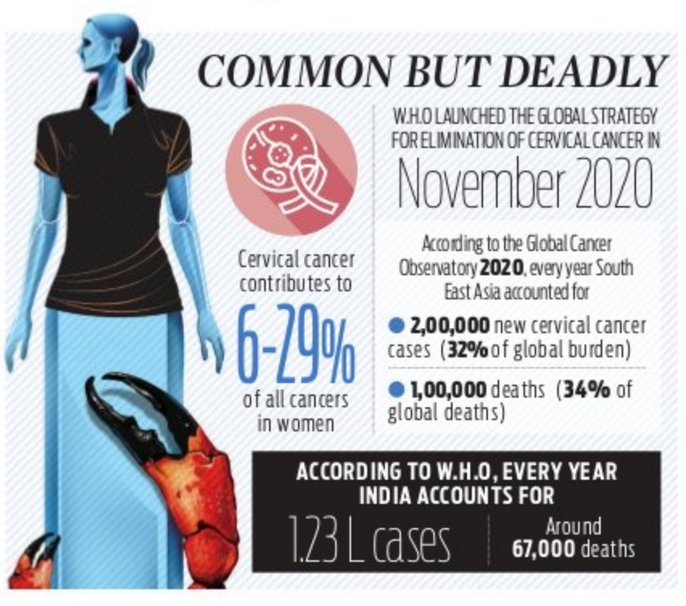
Cervical cancer, which is the second most common cancer in India, is a preventable and curable disease if detected early and treated adequately.

According to a Union health ministry statement, reports speculating that the government will launch an HPV vaccination campaign in the second quarter of year 2024 to target girls in the 9-14 years age group "are not true."

"The Union health ministry is yet to take a decision on the roll out of HPV vaccine in the country," the statement said.

The ministry added that they are closely monitoring the incidences of cervical cancer cases and are in regular touch with states and various health departments regarding this.

According to estimates, cervical cancer contributes to approximately 6-29 per cent of all cancers in women.


COMMON BUT DEADLY
W.H.O LAUNCHED THE GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR ELIMINATION OF CERVICAL CANCER IN
November 2020
Cervical cancer contributes to
6-29%
of all cancers in women
According to the Global Cancer Observatory 2020, every year South East Asia accounted for
2,00,000 new cervical cancer cases (32% of global burden)
1,00,000 deaths (34% of global deaths)
ACCORDING TO W.H.O, EVERY YEAR INDIA ACCOUNTS FOR
1.23 L cases
Around 67,000 deaths

The World Health Organisation (WHO) regional director for South East Asia, Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh, said in November last year that India has introduced HPV vaccination to target cervical cancer at the sub-national level in Sikkim and is planning to increase the scope in other states. The WHO launched the global strategy for elimination of cervical cancer in November 2020.

According to the Global Cancer Observatory 2020, the South East Asia Region accounted for a substantial portion of the global cervical cancer burden, with 2,00,000 new cases (32% of the global burden) and 1,00,000 deaths (34% of global deaths).

The urgent need for a vaccine was felt to eliminate cervical cancer, which kills one woman every eight minutes in the country, as India accounts for about a fifth of the global burden, with 1.23 lakh cases and around 67,000 deaths per year, as per the World Health Organisation's International Agency for Research on Cancer.

Although HPV vaccination has been licensed for use in India since 2008, it is yet to be included in the national immunisation programme. The primary reason for this was a controversy ignited after the death of seven girls who were allegedly administered HPV vaccination by an international non-profit organisation, PATH. Though subsequent investigations concluded that the deaths were not linked to the vaccination, the debate led to the development of more stringent standards for clinical trials in India.

CLEANING CAMPAIGN
Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde on Saturday kick-started the government's 'Sarvankash Swachhta Abhiyan' (deep cleaning campaign) in Thane from the Kaupineshwar temple here.

2 KILLED IN ROAD ACCIDENT IN MAHARASHTRA'S BEED

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	20	10	Mumbai	32	24
Bhopal	23	15	Panaji	08	02
Jaipur	20	09	Patna	21	15
Amritsar	16	04	Lucknow	19	10
Chennai	26	24	Port Blair	34	26
Kolkata	25	15	Imphal	23	05
Srinagar	09	-05	Chandigarh	20	04

■ PM to sound poll bugle from Bihar as BJP eyes 40 LS seats ■ Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra begins from Manipur today

Modi to launch campaign from Champaran on Jan 27

it is a matter of pride for the people of Champaran that the PM will be campaigning in the state for the 2024 polls. Preparations have started for the rally
Sanjay Kumar Jaiswal, BJP MP

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

PM Narendra Modi will arrive in Bihar's Champaran on January 27 to address an election rally for the upcoming Lok Sabha election and flag off various developmental projects.

Earlier, he was slated to visit the state on January 13, which was deferred owing to consecration of Ram temple in Ayodhya.

BJP MP from Paschimi Champaran (Bettiah) Sanjay Kumar Jaiswal said on Saturday that the PM will inaugurate Indian Oil depot at Chhapwa Bahas near Sugauli, national highway between Raxaul and Piprakothi, national highway connecting Bettiah to Patna and some other development works before addressing a rally at Ramna Maidan in Bettiah.

He said it was a matter of pride for the people of Champaran region that the PM will be campaigning in the state for the 2024 polls. Senior officials of the district administration along with the MP inspected the site of the proposed rally on Saturday. "Preparations have started for the rally," Jaiswal claimed. Champaran region has three Lok Sabha seats. While Paschimi Champaran (Bettiah) and Purvi Champaran (Motihari) seats are currently held by BJP, Valmikinagar is held by JD(U), which is now a part of grand-alliance government led by Nitish Kumar.

The BJP has formulated extensive plans for the general election in the state. It has divided 40 Lok Sabha constituencies in 10 clusters where public meetings will be addressed by top leaders of party, including Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence minister Rajnath Singh and party president J P Nadda.

BJP leaders said that apart from Bettiah, PM Modi will address rallies in Aurangabad and Begusarai. Similarly, Amit Shah is scheduled to address rallies in Sitamarhi, Nalanda and Madhepura. Nadda is scheduled to address public meetings in Seemanchal region comprising Kishanganj, Purnea, Araria and Katihar.

Seemanchal region has a sizable Muslim population. The solo Kishaganj Lok Sabha seat was won by Congess in 2019 Lok Sabha election. Meanwhile, a meeting of the core committee of the saffron party was held on January 10 to chalk out strategy for the ensuing general election. The workers of the party have been asked to apprise people about the government's welfare schemes.

Plan for state

The BJP has formulated extensive plans for the general election in the state. It has divided 40 Lok Sabha constituencies in 10 clusters where public meetings will be addressed by top leaders of party, including Home Minister Amit Shah, PM Narendra Modi

Cong says Rahul yatra has nothing to do with politics

This is an ideological yatra, not an electoral yatra. This is a political rally, being taken out by a political party with a political purpose. Our purpose is to protect the Constitution,
Jairam Ramesh, Cong leader

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Bhopal

THE Congress on Saturday said its 'Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra', to be taken out from Manipur on Sunday under Rahul Gandhi's leadership, is a political rally which has nothing to do with elections. Congress leader Jairam Ramesh told journalists in Manipur capital Imphal that Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra is the second phase of Bharat Jodo Yatra. A bevy of party leaders, including chief ministers of all Congress-ruled states, will take part in the launch of the yatra.

"This is an ideological yatra, not an electoral yatra. This is a political rally, being taken out by a political party with a political purpose. Our purpose is to protect the Constitution, the preamble of the Constitution, the principles – justice, liberty equality and fraternity," Ramesh said.

He said the selection of Manipur as the yatra's starting point was a deliberate choice. He said the Congress considered various options and finally, decided to start with Manipur "as a reflection of our concern for what has happened here and also to highlight that the Prime Minister (Narendra Modi) has not met any political leader of Manipur in the last eight months."

Ramesh said the ethnic violence-hit Manipur went through anguish and agony. He said "lakhs" of people were displaced, hundreds killed and the state's social harmony was disturbed.

A chartered flight carrying Gandhi and AICC leaders will land in Imphal shortly after 11 am on Sunday. The Congress leaders will straightway go to Khongjom War Memorial in Thoubal district in the Imphal valley, followed by the launch of the yatra from the private land.

Ramesh said it would be an eight to ten km yatra on Sunday and Gandhi would be in Nagaland the next day. To a query, he said the Congress leader would not go to Kuki-majority Churachandpur. The road to Nagaland passes through Kangpokpi, a Kuki-majority district.

"During the course of two months, Rahul Gandhi will be interacting with civil society groups and addressing public meetings every day. He will put forward to the country a positive agenda on nyay," he said. He said the agenda would be on economic justice, which addresses issues of price rise, unemployment, and inequality; and on social justice, addressing issues relating to empowerment of Dalits, Adivasis.

Deliberate choice

The selection of Manipur as the yatra's starting point was deliberate. Jairam Ramesh said the Congress decided so 'as a reflection of its concern for what happened here and to highlight that the PM has not met any leader of Manipur yet

DEHRADUN DIARY

NARENDRA SETHI
Our correspondent in Uttarakhand
narendrasethi@newindianexpress.com

Dhami concerned over cleanliness ranking

Chief Minister of Uttarakhand Pushkar Singh Dhami has expressed concern about the cleanliness campaign in the state and has called on the public to embrace a culture of books instead of just bookkeeping. He stated that the culture of gifting books instead of bouquets should be adopted by guests. He directed that a library should be established in each district and block, with provisions for useful books for the general public and those appearing for competitive exams. He directed that a plan be formulated within a year to elevate Dehradun, Haridwar, Rudrapur, Haldwani, and Kotdwar in the cleanliness rankings.

Strawberry farming flavour of the season

Farmers in the Roorkee region of Uttarakhand are increasingly transitioning away from traditional crops such as wheat, sugarcane, paddy, and maize, and embracing modern farming practices. Just a decade and a half ago, the concept of cultivating strawberries was foreign to the farmers in this district. However, today they are actively pursuing the strawberries cultivation, seeking to establish their own unique agricultural identity. The horticulture in-charge of Roorkee, RP Jasola, stated, "The government provides a subsidy of ₹62,500 per hectare for strawberry cultivation."

Cop sent off to climb Mount Aconcagua

Head Constable Rajendra Nath of the Uttarakhand police was ceremoniously dispatched by the Director General of Police, Abhinav Kumar, on Friday to undertake the challenge of conquering Mount Aconcagua, the towering peak of South America standing at 6,961 meters. This ambitious expedition marks Nath's endeavour to ascend Mount Aconcagua, coinciding with the occasion of Republic Day. At this event, the Inspector General of Police of the State Disaster Response Force(SDRF), Ridhim Agarwal, emphasised the significant role of mountaineering within the SDRF and highlighted several such successful ascents.

Row erupts over mob attack on Bengal sadhus

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kolkata

A video of monks being attacked by a mob in West Bengal's Purulia over suspicion that they were 'kidnappers in disguise' has triggered a political row. BJP has alleged collapse of law and order in the state. Meanwhile, the TMC accused the BJP of trying to give a communal twist to the incident.

The monks, who were on their way to the Gangasagar Mela, are seen getting roughed up by a group in Kashipur in the video.

The Purulia Police said the incident took place due to a misunderstanding.

"Facts are being misrepresented from certain quarters about a recent incident in Purulia. The fact is, in the afternoon of January 11, there was a misunderstanding between three Gangasagar-bound sadhus with three minor girls near Kashipur over a language problem.

"The girls got scared, and locals manhandled the sadhus, damaging their vehicle and alleging a kidnapping attempt. Local police intervened and rescued the sadhus," it said. The police said twelve people have been arrested so far.

Chouhan's 'former CM, and not a rejected one' remark triggers buzz

ANURAAG SINGH @ Bhopal

TWO speeches – one by former Madhya Pradesh chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and the other by his elder son Kartikey Singh Chouhan – hogged the media spotlight in the BJP-ruled central Indian state on Friday.

Just a month after being replaced as MP CM by Dr Mohan Yadav, the former CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan, while addressing a student conclave in Pune (Maharashtra) said, "I'm the former CM, but not the rejected one."

Almost 910 km away in Budhni assembly constituency (Chouhan's assembly constituency) in Sehore district of central MP, just a few hours later after the ex-CM's speech in Pune, his elder son Kartikey Singh Chouhan made it clear that he wouldn't hesitate in taking the warpath against his own government (current BJP government headed by Dr Mohan Yadav) in MP for the cause of the people of his father's assembly seat.

Addressing the 13th Indian Student Parliament on Friday, Chouhan (the BJP's longest serving CM in the country) said, "I'm now addressed as the former chief minister, but I'm not the rejected one. CMs quit their post when people start abusing them for being too long in power. But even after quitting the CM's post, wherever I go, people shout for me Mama Mama Mama. The love of people is my real wealth."

Just a few hours later in Budhni, Kartikey said, "It was me and not my father who came to you all to seek votes for him here. Though my father is no longer the state's CM, I won't be able to sleep properly at night if I don't return to be among you, so I'm here to speak before you all. But stay assured that if need arises, Kartikey is ready to fight for your rights."

MAHADEV APP

Online betting scam: ED arrests 2 more in C'garh

EJAZ KAISER @ Raipur

THE Enforcement Directorate (ED) arrested two more accused during the ongoing investigation in the Mahadev Online App betting scam, taking the total arrested in connection with the case to eight.

"ED has arrested Nitin Tibrewal and Amit Agrawal under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) for their involvement in the operations of Mahadev Online Book. They were produced before the PMLA special court in Raipur and both were sent to ED custody for five days", stated ED release.

More big names are likely to be on the ED's radar following the interrogation of the two.

ED has initiated investigation on the basis of FIRs registered by Chhattisgarh police. Other FIRs registered by Visakhapatnam police and other states were also taken on record. The app is an umbrella syndicate arranging online platforms for enabling illegal betting websites to enroll users, create user IDs and engage in laundering of money.

Pilot dares BJP to contest on promises

EJAZ KAISER @ Raipur

NEWLY appointed Chhattisgarh state in-charge for Congress, Sachin Pilot challenged the BJP to contest the upcoming elections on its promises and report cards instead of diverting people's attention from the real issues that the country is facing.

During his two-day visit to Raipur, he held extensive discussions with the party leaders and convened a series of meetings including consultation with the party's state election committee to galvanise the cadres for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls. Pilot felt the need to recharge the Congress workers and the party to move past the loss in the Assembly polls.

He instructed the Congressmen to remain united, take the alleged failures of the Narendra Modi-led Centre up to the booth levels and make the people aware visiting households.

"BJP fights elections evoking religious sentiments instead of its performance, misgovernance and the report card. They (BJP) avoid talking on real issues like high inflation and unemployment hitting hard. Congress is fully geared-up for the Lok Sabha polls. People needed to be apprised that the BJP in Centre failed to fulfil any of the promises. The voters are mature enough and sensitive to assess the report card of the BJP-led central government before exercising their choice", the Congress leader asserted and further added that Congress opposes politics of religion to seek votes as beliefs remain a personal choice.

To a query on the internal strife within the state Congress, Pilot said that there could be differences of opinion as in any other party or family on some issues but no friction on unity. Pilot asked the state Congress leaders to interact with the disgruntled cadres, do away with any factionalism ahead of polls.

'Donkey route': Detained passengers wanted to create 'good travel history'

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

AS many as 156 people, who were part of the 276 passengers on the Nicaragua-bound flight sent back from France to India, hailed from Punjab and wanted to improve the travel history on their passports for an easy entry to the US, Canada and European countries.

They were advised by their travel agents to travel to this central American country as many of them had been earlier been rejected by the Canadian authorities, while some had dreams of settling in Australian which were unfulfilled.

This was revealed by a four-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) of Punjab Police probing the human trafficking of Indians mostly from Punjab and Gujarat via the 'Donkey' route on the Nicaragua-bound flight.

According to sources, of the 156 passengers, 57 were from Malwa region, 37 from Doaba, 64 from Majha region, and one from union territory of Chandigarh. Meanwhile around 20 people each from Amritsar, Gurdaspur and Tarn Taran districts of the state as these three districts top the list.

"Details of these 156 passengers have been obtained through FRRO. On analysis it has been found that these are spread over 22 police districts of Punjab. The data has been sent to respective districts to verify the victims and role of travel agents," said Randhir Kumar, SP (Investigations), Ferozepur who heads the SIT team. "As now one person seems to be interested in registration of FIR against the travel agents and has shared the details with the SIT. Soon a case would be registered against the accused," said a senior cop.

They said that the youth in the age group of 25-40 years are advised to go on foreign trips to offbeat, visa-free European countries before embarking on a 'donkey' route. This helps them enter transit countries posing as tourists before undertaking the perilous last stretch on donkey route.

"A majority of people sent back from France who were on that Nicaragua flight had their passport full of tourist visa stamps, especially from European countries," the police official said. Sources said that the passengers of the Nicaragua flight were suspected to be following the 'donkey' route to illegally enter Mexico and from there to the US. Nicaragua has been used as a migratory springboard because of relaxed or visa free entry requirements. The preferred transit countries for illegal entry to USA are Ecuador, Bolivia, Guyana, Spain, Brazil and Venezuela.

Posing as tourists

Cops said that the youth in the age group of 25-40 years are advised to go on foreign trips to offbeat, visa-free European countries before embarking on a 'donkey' route. This helps them enter transit countries posing as tourists before undertaking the perilous last stretch on donkey route. A majority of people sent back from France had their tourist visa stamps on their passports

Land-locked MP wins 1st Beach Games in Diu

ANURAAG SINGH @ Bhopal

MP won a total of 18 medals, seven of which were gold medals | EXPRESS

VIEWED as an emerging power in water sports (sailing, rowing, kayaking, yachting and canoeing), the landlocked Madhya Pradesh emerged as the overall winner at the country's first multi-sports beach games in Diu recently.

Beach Games 2024 – the first-multi sports beach games in India – was organised from January 4 to 11 at the pristine blue flag certified Ghoghla Beach in Diu. Total 1,400-plus athletes (all aged under 21 years) from 28 states and union territories, supported by 205 match officials, showcased their sporting talent in a diverse range of disciplines at the 8-day beach games.

Madhya Pradesh, which is counted among the landlocked states of the country, emerged as the overall champion, topping the medals tally with a total 18 medals, seven of which were gold medals.

This remarkable feat not only showcased MP's sporting prowess, but also highlighted the depth of the sports talent being fostered within the state through different sports academies. Importantly, MP is already emerging as a major force in various water sports events in the country, with a sizable haul of national and international medals.

Maharashtra won 14 medals including 3 gold, while Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand and hosts Dadra Nagar Haveli, Diu & Daman secured 12 medals each. Assam won 8 medals, out of which 5 were gold.

In a thrilling turn of events, Lakshadweep secured the gold medal in Beach Soccer, marking a historic achievement for the pristine island territory. They beat Maharashtra 5-4 in the well contested final.

Lakshadweep's victory not only added to the diversity of medal winners but also underscored the inclusive and nationwide impact of the Diu Beach Games 2024.

The eight-day beach sports extravaganza was structured into two sessions daily. The morning session (8 am to 12 noon), followed by the afternoon session (starting at 3 pm), scheduling not only optimised athletes' performances under suitable weather conditions but also allowed for a dynamic and engaging viewing experience for the audience.

From the strategic showdowns in Tug of War to the breath-taking feats of Sea Swimming, the martial artistry of Pencak Silat, the acrobatic displays of Mallakhamb, the fast-paced action of Beach Volleyball, the strategic battles of Beach Kabaddi, and the electrifying kicks and goals of Beach Soccer, each sport brought its unique energy to the event.

The debut of Beach Boxing added an extra layer of excitement, captivating both participants and spectators and marking a historic moment in the nation's athletic journey.

Union Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports Anurag Thakur took to X (formerly Twitter) to express his support and enthusiasm for this event. He captioned the post "The energy of the athletes and the beauty of Diu has woven a never-before vibe that is enchanting & exhilarating." He said, the vision of PM Narendra Modi to bring new life to the Beaches of Bharat has taken a sporting turn, with the organization of the first ever Beach Games in Diu, off the Gujarat coast.

TEN

killed and six others missing after an accident in a coal mine in China's Henan Province on Saturday

Ruling-party's Lai wins Taiwan presidency

Party's appeal to social justice & rejection of China's threats won out

Taiwanese Vice President Lai Ching-te (L), celebrates his victory with running mate Bi-khim Hsiao in Taiwan on Saturday | AP

TAIPEI

RULING-party candidate Lai Ching-te emerged victorious in Taiwan's presidential election on Saturday.

While domestic issues such as the sluggish economy and expensive housing also featured prominently in the campaign, Lai's Democratic Progressive Party's (DPP) appeal to self-determination, social justice and rejection of China's threats ultimately won out. It is the first time a single party has led Taiwan for three consecutive four-year presidential terms since the first open presidential elections in 1996.

At a post-election news conference, Lai thanked the Taiwanese electorate for "writing a new chapter in our democracy. We have shown the world how much we cherish our democracy. This is our unwavering commitment." He added, "Taiwan will continue to walk side by side with democracies from around the world ... through our actions, the Taiwanese people have successfully resisted efforts from external forces to influence this election."

With votes from virtually all polling stations counted, the Central Election Commission said Lai won 40.1% of votes, ahead of Hou Yu-ih of the opposition Kuomintang (KMT) on 33.5%.

Conceding defeat, KMT's Hou, who had argued for warmer ties with China and accused the DPP of antagonising Beijing with its stance that Taiwan is "already independent," urged the country to unite. "When the people have made their decision, we face them and we listen to the voices of the people," he said.

Ko Wen-je—who took 26.4% of the vote with an anti-establishment offer of a "third way" out of the two-party deadlock—said the results put his Taiwan People's Party (TPP) on the map as a "key opposition force."

"Ko Wen-je will not give up on building Taiwan into a sustainable country and I would like to appeal to you not to give up as well," he said. *Agencies*

Coal miner's son, Harvard graduate

Born in 1959, Lai was raised by his mother alongside five other siblings in a rural hamlet in New Taipei City, after his coal miner father died when he was a toddler. After he graduated from Harvard University, he returned to work in a hospital in southern Taiwan before turning his attention to politics in 1996 during Third Taiwan Strait Crisis.

What all are at stake in the presidential elections

TAIWAN HELD A PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION ON SATURDAY THAT CHINA HAS WARNED COULD MEAN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PEACE AND WAR ON THE ISLAND, WHICH BEIJING CLAIMS AS ITS TERRITORY

THE CHINA FACTOR

China has suggested that Taiwan could be choosing between peace and war

In his victory speech, Lai said he would maintain peace and stability, but pledged to defend from Chinese belligerence. "We are determined to safeguard Taiwan from threats and intimidation from China"

China vowed it would not tolerate "separatist activities." "We will adhere to the 1992 Consensus that embodies one-China principle and oppose separatist activities aimed at Taiwan independence and foreign interference," Beijing's Taiwan Affairs Office spokesperson Chen Binhua said

THE U.S. POSITION

The US takes no side on Taiwan's statehood but insists that any differences must be resolved peacefully

It opposes any unilateral change to the status quo by either Beijing or Taipei. It also has a security pact with Taiwan to supply it with sufficient hardware and technology to deter any armed attack from Beijing

The US also adopts a strategic ambiguity approach by which it doesn't formally commit troops to the island to fight for Taiwan should there be a war, although President Joe Biden has several times said he would send troops to the island

HOW DOES TAIWAN AFFECT THE U.S.-CHINA RELATIONSHIP?

Beijing calls the Taiwan issue the "core of its core interests" and a red line that mustn't be crossed. Chinese President Xi has told Biden that it is the most sensitive issue in the countries' bilateral relations

Beijing demands that Washington stay away from Taiwan and refrain from supporting its independence

It has slammed Washington for sending weapons and sailing warships in the Taiwan Strait, calling them the "wrong signals to Taiwan's independence elements"

Wedding bells for Jacinda Ardern after years of delays

WELLINGTON

AFTER almost five years of engagement and a postponement due to the coronavirus pandemic, former New Zealand prime minister Jacinda Ardern married longtime partner Clarke Gayford in a private ceremony on Saturday.

Details of the event were closely held by the pair, but the ceremony is reported to have been staged at a luxury vineyard in the scenic Hawke's Bay region, 325 kilometres from New Zealand's capital, Wellington.

It is believed only family, close friends and a few of the 43-year-old Ardern's former lawmaker colleagues were invited, including Ardern's successor and former prime minister Chris Hipkins.

Ardern and Gayford, 47, reportedly began dating in 2014 and were engaged five years later, but due to Ardern's government's Covid-19 restrictions that reduced gatherings to 100 people, the wedding planned for the southern hemisphere summer of 2022 was postponed. "Such is life," Ardern said at the time of their decision to call off the wedding. "I am no different to, dare I say, thousands of other New Zealanders."

Just 37 when she became leader in 2017, Ardern quickly became a global icon of the left. She exemplified a new style of leadership and was praised around the world for her handling of the nation's worst-ever mass shooting and the early stages of the pandemic.

In 2018, Ardern became just the second elected world leader to give birth while holding office. Later that year, she brought her infant daughter to the floor of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

New Zealand, under Ardern's government, had some of the strictest coronavirus mandates in the world, which prompted several rallies during her final year as PM. *AP*

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the public at large that my client **SRI S. RAMBABU** aged about 44 years, S/o. Sri Rama Rao, is indented to purchase the residential Property described in the schedule written hereunder, from its owner **SRI K JAYASHANKAR,** aged about 41 years, S/o. Sri B Krishnappa, residing at No.61, 4th B Main Road, Jayarama Setty Layout, Devasandra, K.R Puram, Bangalore–560036.

Hence any person/s asserting any kind of claim/s, Charge/s, right/s, interest, title, etc., in respect of Schedule Property, in any manner whatsoever or has/have any objections to such sale transaction in favour of my clients, is hereby called upon to notify in writing with all supporting documents to the undersigned **within 15 days** from the date of this publication, failing which my clients will proceed with sale transaction as if there is no claim whatsoever, without being liable for any future claim/s.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that part and parcel of residential property bearing **Site No.10,** formed in Property No.23, situated at Kodigehalli Village, Krishnarajapura Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, comes under the Administrative jurisdiction of Bruhath Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Bangalore, **measuring East to West 67 Feet and North to South 40 Feet in all measuring 2680 SQUARE FEET,** and property being bounded:

EAST BY :: PRIVATE PROPERTY,
WEST BY :: ROAD,
NORTH BY :: SITE NO.11,
SOUTH BY :: SITE NO.09.

A.S RAJANNA, Advocate,
RE Associates,
Near BBMP Office, Old Madras Road,
K.R Puram, Bangalore-560 036.
Mob: 9845179797 and 9886986468
Email:shubhakaranraj@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform that my client **Mr. K. SHAMSHULHAQ KHAN S/o. Mr. K. Faizul Haq Khan,** No.6, Shanthinagar, 1st Cross, 11th Ward, V.N.College Road, Hospet-583 201, has entered into an Agreement of Sale with **Mrs. R. NIRMAL KUMAR S/o Mr. P. Roychand.** Flat No.1001, 10th Floor, Platinum Ananda, Near Ramakrishna Mutt, Bull Temple Road, Gavipuram Extension, Bangalore-560019, to purchase the Schedule Property hereunder. If any person/s have any manner of rights, interests, share/s, claims or objections of whatsoever nature can lodge their claim/s with the undersigned along with substantial document/s within **15 Days** from this notice and if no claim/s are lodged within the specified period, it will be deemed that the above mentioned person is the sole and absolute Owner of the said Property and my client will proceed to conclude the sale transaction and register the sale deed.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

The Two Commercial Units being the Entire First Floor bearing **Unit No.9,** Municipal **No.9,** PID No.85-7-9, measuring 69.0205447 Sq. Mtrs. or 742.937 Sq. Ft. along with 31.2618595 Sq. Mtrs. or 336.50 Sq. Ft. UDS and Unit **No.10,** Municipal **No.10,** PID No.85-7-10, 56.0904427 Sq. Mtrs. or 603.75 Sq. Ft. along with 31.2618595 Sq. Mtrs. or 336.50 Sq. Ft. UDS, situated at **Madhavaraya Mudaliar Road, Cox Town,** BBMP Ward No.85, New Ward No.79 - Sarvagna Nagar, Bangalore, along with **Exclusive Terrace rights;**

T.M.SYED AFZAL AHMED (Advocate)
No.151/1-A, Lal Masjid Complex,
Jumma Masjid Road, Shivajinagar,
Bangalore-560051,
Ph: 9845546676 / 08041643307

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, our clients have agreed to purchase the Schedule Property from its Owner **SRI.PANDURANGA RAO M GOKHALE (M.PANDURANGA GOKHALE)** S/o Sri.M.Krishna Bhat, residing at No.55/1, 3rd Cross, Gavipuram Extension, Bengaluru-560019. If any persons have any manner of claim, right, title, interest or demand of any nature in or over the Schedule Property, they are hereby requested to file their objections along with the photocopies of the documents on which they are relying, with the undersigned within **10 (Ten) days** from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on our clients.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the agricultural land measuring (i) **1 Acre 30 Guntas bearing Sy.No.46/2;** (ii) **1 Acre 10 Guntas bearing Sy.No.46/3** and (iii) **32 Guntas bearing Sy.No.47/3,** situated at **Thorechannohalli Village,** Soluru Hobli, **Magadi Taluk,** Ramanagara District and bounded as follows:

East by : Land bearing Sy.No.33
West by : Land bearing Sy.No.46/1 & 47/2
North by : Land bearing Sy.No.36
South by : Land bearing Sy.No.32 & 47/2

Sd/- BAYYA REDDY. M
For ISHA LAW CHAMBERS LLP
Advocates & Solicitors
No.101, 2nd Floor, Sri Manjunatha Complex,
22nd Main Road, BSK 2nd Stage, Opp : Banashankari
BDA Complex, Bengaluru-560070.

PUBLIC CAUTION NOTICE

PROPERTY BELONGING TO Late Mrs.ELSIE JOHN

(LANDS IN SURVEY **Nos.27/1 & 28/1A, CHICKABALLENDUR VILLAGE, NEAR CARMELARAM, VARTHUR HOBLI, BANGALORE,** TOTALLY MEASURING **3 ACRES**

1. **Mrs.COLETE JOHN, Mrs.IRENE JOHN** and **Mrs.BERLINE JOHN** are the sole Legal Beneficiaries and Owners of the above referenced 3 Acres Property, having acquired the same by virtue of the last REGISTERED WILL dated, 21st November 2018, of their Late mother, Mrs.ELSIE JOHN who passed away on 7th April 2021.
2. There is a pending Civil Suit filed by Mrs.Elsie John against **Mrs.Yasodamma** in respect to the said Properties in **O.S No. 1615/2016, (Earlier O.S No. 703/2003).** There is also Injunction orders dated 08.04.2010 passed **in W.P Nos.13238/2009 & 13311/2009,** passed by the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka preventing the sale of the land until Disposal of the Suit.
3. In the Criminal Proceedings initiated by **Mrs.Elsie John** against **Smt.Yasodamma,** in **C.C No.379/2006** on the file of the Chief Judicial Magistrate Bangalore Rural District the court has given a clear finding that Mrs.Elsie John has not signed and executed sale deeds in favour of Smt.Yasodamma and that **impersonation/forgery has been committed.**
4. It has been brought to the attention of the 3 Legal Beneficiaries of the Property that a Forged Will was created in Trivandrum dated 5th February 2021 and Registered in Bangalore on 16th November 2023 by one **Mr.Joseph Sabine John,** who is the son of the Late Mrs.Elsie John, and who has been completely disinherited by his mother and has no rights to any of her properties. On this matter, the Legal Beneficiaries have lodged Police Complaints against Mrs.Joseph Sabine John and other parties with the Bangalore City Police Commissioner on 13th December 2023 and the Trivandrum City Police Commissioner on 22nd December 2023.
5. It has also been brought to the attention of the 3 Legal Beneficiaries that a large Signboard has been erected at the property without their permission to mislead the Public. The signboard states the phone numbers of 3 persons (9448056537, 9902889746, 9880087943) who are unknown to the Legal Beneficiaries.
6. The General Public are Cautioned not to have any dealings with **Mr.Joseph Sabine John or Mrs.Yasodamma or any other persons** who are trying to illegally sell land/plots. Any such sale is illegal and will not be binding on the Legal Owners of the Property and the sales made during the pendency of the case will **be declared illegal & void by the court.** Any Persons affected by such fraudulent transactions are advised to immediately lodge Complaints to the Police and relevant Authority.
7. For Legal enquiries on the above property, please contact the Advocate for Late Mrs.Elsie John and the Legal Beneficiaries:

Bangalore
Dated: 13.01.2024.

Mr Ravi Vellanki Advocate,
No.321, 1st Floor, CMH Road,
Indiranagar, Bangalore-560 038. **(Mobile no. 9844121658)**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my clients namely **Sri. Puttegowda** son of Late Odukempegowda and all the legal heirs of his brothers namely Sri. Kempegowda, Sri. Maregowda, Sri. Ramu, Sri. Krishna, Sri. Lakshmana and Sri. Muddaraju, all are residing at Kotekoppa Village, Uyyamballi Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District (All the said brothers of Sri. Puttegowda are no more) are the joint Co-owners of Agricultural Land bearing Survey No.168, Extent 6 Acres 16 Guntas (Including 4 Guntas of Kharab Land), (Out of which 4 Acres 16 Guntas is converted from Agricultural Purposes to Industrial (Mining Purposes), situated at KoteKoppa Village, Uyyamballi Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District which is more fully described in the Schedule hereunder and herein after called and referred to as "SCHEDULE PROPERTY". Now they have decided jointly to sell the aforesaid Schedule Property in favour of any person/s. Persons objecting for the intended sale or having any right on the Schedule Property may lodge their objections and/or claims, with the undersigned along with supporting documentary evidence within **15 (Fifteen) days** from the date of this publication and objections and/or claims received thereafter will not be binding on my clients and my clients will proceed to sell the aforementioned Schedule Property as if there are no objections/claims.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Agricultural and Converted Land bearing Survey No.168, Extent 6 Acres 16 Guntas (Including 4 Guntas of Kharab Land) (Out of which 4 Acres 16 Guntas is converted from Agricultural Purposes to Industrial (Mining Purposes), situated at Kotekoppa Village, Uyyamballi Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District and bounded on: **East by:** Maregowda's Property, **West by:** Cheluvaiah's Property, **North by:** Maregowda's Property and **South by:** Private Property.

D.P SUBBAKRISHNA, Advocate
No.40, 2nd Floor, 14th Main, Maruthi Circle,
Opp. Krishna Mini Hall, Hanumanthanagar,
Bengaluru-560 019. Mob: 9480047798,
9480052888, Date:13-01-2024

KARNATAK LINGAYAT EDUCATION SOCIETY

Lingaraj College Road, BELAGAVI, Karnataka, India

Tel: 0831-2404040 | Web: klesociety.org

No.AGM/8543

NOTICE

The Annual General Body Meeting of the Society will be held on Sunday the 4th February, 2024 at 3.00 p.m. in the Central Hall of the Lingaraj College, Belagavi, to consider and decide the following subjects on the Agenda:

AGENDA

1) To read and confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Annual General Body held at 3.30 p.m. on 22nd January, 2023.
2) To consider and adopt the Annual Reports of the Society Head Office and its Institutions for the year 2023.
3) To consider and adopt the Audited Statements of Accounts of the Society Head Office and its Institutions for the Financial Year 2022-23.
4) To consider and adopt the Budget Estimates of the Society Head Office and its Institutions for the Financial Year 2024-25.
5) To consider the recommendation of the Board of Management regarding the merger of Belgaum Women's Welfare Society's Women's Hostel, Camp, Belagavi with KLE Society, Belagavi.

Any other subjects that may be placed before the meeting with the permission of the Chair.

All the Members are requested to attend the meeting.

Sd/-
Dr. PRABHAKAR B. KORE
CHAIRMAN, Board of Management,
K.L.E. Society, Belagavi.

BELAGAVI
Date: 13/01/2024

Note: The Annual Reports, Audited Statements of Accounts, Budget Estimates of the Society Head Office and its Institutions have been kept in the Society's Head Office, College Road, Belagavi for the perusal of the Members of the Society. As per clause Number 18(d) & (i) of the Constitution of the Society, Meeting Notice will not be sent to the individual members, separately. The suggestions / questions received after 27.01.2024 will not be considered.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that our clients Sri. Tejaswi Veerappa And Smt. Madhuri Nagesh intends to purchase the property described in the Schedule hereunder from its lawful owners **G Mahesh Kumar** (Aadhaar: 2902 3380 1812) and **G Rupesh Kumar,** (Aadhaar: 2927 6866 0406), who are the absolute owners of the Schedule Property. Any person or persons other than the Vendors having any claim or interest in or to the Schedule Property, or any part thereof in any manner is/are required to forward their claim on or to the property to the undersigned at their office along with the relevant documents thereof, within **15 days** from the date of publication of this notice in this newspaper. In the absence of any claims within the above said period, it shall be deemed that there are no such claims or that if there are any claims and they have not been made it shall be deemed to have been waived and our client will proceed with the transaction without any further reference in this regard.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the **Three bed rooms** residential apartment/flat bearing unit **No.SF-202,** situated at **Second Floor,** having super built up area of **1425 square feet** along with **270 square feet** of undivided right of share in the land in the schedule property i.e., Site bearing Nos.870 and 871, intermediate, Situated in 78A-01G, Survey Numbers 17, 18/1 to 6, 20, 23, 30, 31, 32, 36/1, 37, 64, 71, 95, 96, 97,98,112(19), 135 to 137(17) of Nagarabhavi Village, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore District, Bangalore, in the Private Layout formed by Sri.Vinayaka House Building Co-operative Society Limited, Presently comes under the limits of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike and bearing New BBMP Municipal Katha No.442, Ward No.73-Kottigepalya, measuring East to West: 136-0 feet and North to South: 40-0 feet, totally measuring 5440 Sq. feet, and one covered car parking area bearing No.SF-202 in the stilt/basement floor in the above said residential apartment/building known as **'DURGADEVI ENCLAVE',** along with water, electricity, sewerage amenities and all common areas such as passages, lobbies, lift/s, staircase/s and all other areas of common use etc., and bound as follows: East by : Site Nos. 843 and 844; West by : Road; North by : Site No. 872; South by : Site No. 869

B. S. ANANTHAKRISHNA, Partner
A & M LAW PARTNERS, Advocates
3132, 2nd Cross, 1st Main,
Rajajinagar 2nd Stage, Gayathrinagar,
Bangalore - 560 021, Mob: 7411490256
Place : Bengaluru, date : 12.01.2024

QuoteExpress

NEVER COMPLAIN AND NEVER EXPLAIN

BENJAMIN DISRAELI

IN THE COURT OF THE I ADDL. SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE, AT DEVANAHALLI.

O.S. No.653/2020

BETWEEN: T.R. ANANDA ... PLAINTIFF

AND: State of Karnataka and others. **... DEFENDANTS**

NOTICE TO GENERAL PUBLIC

Whereas, it is notified to the general public that, the plaintiff has filed a suit in O.S. No. 653/2020, for the relief of declaration, injunction and other consequential reliefs against the defendants. The above case stands posted to **06-03-2024** for further consideration at 11.00 AM before the Hon'ble Court to appear in person or through their advocate and to enter their appearance.

Any person having any subsisting interest in respect of the plaint schedule property are invited to lodge their objection /claims if any on **06-03-2024** at 11:00 AM before the I Addl. Senior Civil Judge, Devanahalli, failing which, the matter will be heard exparte, in accordance with law.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of land measuring an extent of 208 Acres o2 guntas comprised in Sy.No.2 to 9, 11, 38 and 56, situate at Jodi Lakshmipura Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural Dist., and bounded on: **East by:** Savakanahalli & Shetterahalli Village limits, **West by:** Byadarahalli Village Limits & Sy.No.59, **North by:** Bidaluru Village Limits & Gomal Lands, **South by:** Devanahalli – Doddaballapura Road. Boundaries of Sy.No.56 lying on the southern side of the Devanahalli – Doddaballapura Road are: **East by:** Sy. No.53,**West by:** Sy. No.57, **North by:** Sy. No.55, **South by:** Sy. No.51 & 52.

Given under my hand and the seal of the court on 02-01-2024.

By order of the court, Chief Ministerial Officer, Senior Civil Judge Court, Devanahalli.

REDDY & REDDY ASSOCIATES
ARAVIND REDDY .H, Advocate,
No. S-5, 2nd Floor, Thimmaiah
Chambers, 1st Cross, Gandhinagar,
Bengaluru -560 009. Mob: 9945506953

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have been retained by my clients **Sri.Prasanna Kumara Guttahalli Nagaraja,** S/o. Nagaraja, residing at Samhita No.922, 1st Cross Road, 11th Main Road, Behind Sapthagiri Engineering College, Atmeeya Geleyarabalaga Layout, Chikkasandra, Chikkabanavara Bangalore - 560090 had intends to purchase the properties mentioned below:

The immovable agricultural land bearing Jakkanahalli Village Sy.No.157/1 measuring 1 Acre situated Tyamagondlu Village, Nelamangala Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, described in the schedule here under from owner Sri.Manjunath, S/o. Late Anjinappa. Residing at Jakkanahalli Village, Tyamagondlu Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, to ascertain the title to their schedule property acquired by through Release Deed dated: 19.12.2023, registered as document No.12510/ 2023-24, Book-I, registered in the office of the Sub-registrar, Nelamangala.

The immovable agricultural land bearing Sy.No.158/1 measuring 1 Acre 15.08 Guntas and inclusive of 2 Guntas Kharab Land, situated Tyamagondlu Village, Nelamangala Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, described in the schedule here under from owner Sri.Narayana Rao Y.R., S/o. Late Ramakrishnaiah, Residing at Ennegere Village, Solur Hobli, Magadi Taluk, Ramanagara District, to ascertain the title to their schedule property acquired by through Sale Deed dated: 15.10.2022, registered as document No.9514/2022-23, Book-I, stored in C.D.No.NMGD1446 registered in the office of the Sub-registrar, Nelamangala.

Any person having any claim in respect to the schedule property, by way sale, exchange, gift, Mortgage, charge, trust, inheritance, possession, lease line or otherwise howsoever, or requested to inform the same in writing to the undersigned having office at : No. 15/7, 3rd Cross, Sampige Road, Malleshwaram, Bangalore -560 003 within 7 days from the date hereof failing which the claim or claims if any such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and abandoned.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Item No.1: All that piece and parcel of the immovable agricultural land bearing Jakkanahalli Village Sy.No.157/1 measuring 1 Acre, situated Tyamagondlu Village, Nelamangala Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and bounded on: **East by** :Property of Dasappa & Dayananda; **West by:** Property of Hanuman tharayappa; **North by:** Property of Thimmaiah, **South by :** Prperty of Narayana Rao.

Item No.2: All that piece and parcel of the immovable agricultural land bearing Sy.No.158/1 measuring 1 Acre 15.08 Guntas and inclusive of 2 Guntas Kharab Land, situated Tyamagondlu Village, Nelamangala Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and bounded on: **East by** :Property of Hanumantharayappa; **West by:** Property of Rangaraja Murthy; **North by:** Property of Dayananda & Manjunath, **South by :** Property of P.Jyothi.

Place : Bangalore **Dated :** 13.01.2024

T. A. HARISH B.A.L., LL.B.
Advocate/Legal Advisor
#15/7, 3rd Cross, Sampige Road,
Malleshwaram, Bangalore – 560003.
E-Mail: taharish80@gmail.com
Mob: 9535506768

HDFC BANK

HDFC BANK LIMITED

Regd. Office: HDFC Bank House, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel (West), Mumbai - 400013
Branch: #51, HDFC House, Kasturba Road, Bangalore 560 001
Tel:-080-41183000 CIN L65920MH1994PLC080618 Website: www.hdfcbank.com

DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13 (2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **HDFC Bank Limited** (erstwhile HDFC Limited having amalgamated with HDFC Bank Limited by virtue of a Scheme of Amalgamation approved by Hon'ble NCLT-Mumbai vide order dated 17th March 2023) **(HDFC)** under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued Demand Notices under Section 13 (2) of the said Act, calling upon the Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) listed hereunder, to pay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice/s, within 60 days from the date of the respective Notice/s, as per details given below. The undersigned have, caused these Notices to be pasted on the premises of the last known respective addresses of the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s). Copies of the said Notices are available with the undersigned, and the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s), may, if they so desire, collect the respective copy from the undersigned on any working day during normal office hours.

In connection with the above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) to pay to **HDFC,** within 60 days from the date of publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below in their respective names, together with further interest @ 18% p.a. as detailed in the said Demand Notices from the respective dates mentioned below in column (c) till the date of payment and / or realization, read with the loan agreement and other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following Secured Asset(s) have been mortgaged to **HDFC** by the said Borrower (s) respectively.

Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured asset/s.

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative (s)	Total Outstanding Dues	Date of Demand Notice	Description of Secured Asset in respect of which Security Interest has been created
(a)	(b)	c	(d)	(f)
1	**Mrs. Prasad H V Godha Krishna (Borrower)** **M/S Sri Krishna P.G. (Co-Borrower-1)** **Miss. Prasad Pooja Nagarathna (Co-Borrower-2)** Plot No.116/2-1, House No.116 & 116/5, Both at 11th Cross, Margosa Road, Malleshwaram, Bangalore-560003. **Also at:** Sri Krishna P.G. **Designation:** Proprietor, No.116/5-1, 11th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru 560003	**Loan Account No** **(1) 634625654: Rs.6,94,42,338/-** **(2) 636261359 : Rs.1,04,91,490/-** **(3) 636512012 : Rs. 5,27,823/-** **(4) 637486037 : Rs. 5,01,965/-** **Total Amount: Rs.8,09,63,616/-** **(Rupees Eight Crore Nine Lakh Sixty Three Thousand Six Hundred Sixteen Only) as on 31.12.2023**	**04.01.2024** ..... **N.P.A. Date: (e) 03.01.2024**	**Item – I:** All that piece and parcel of property bearing **Old No.116/2, New Municipal No. 116/2-1, PID No.7-17-116/2-1,** situated at 11th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bangalore, measuring East to West 35 feet and North to South 55 feet, in all measuring to an extent of 1925 sq.ft and bounded on the: **East by :** House property of Smt. MV Koushalya bearing 116/3, **West by :** Remaining portion of site bearing 116/2 belonging to Smt. MV Koushalya, **North by :** Remaining portion of site bearing 116/2 belonging to Smt. MV Koushalya & **South by :** 11th Cross Road **Item – II:** All that piece and parcel of property bearing **No.116, PID No.7-17-116,** measuring East to West 80 feet and North to South 75 feet 6 inches, totally measuring to an extent of **6040 sq.ft,** situated at 11th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bangalore 560003 together with construction thereon present and future admeasuring approximately **24,415 sq.ft s**uper built up and bounded on the: **East by :** Property bearing No.116/6 allotted to Dr.HV Venkatesh, **West by :** Margosa Road, **North by :** Private Property & **South by :** Property bearing No.116/5 allotted to Dr.HV Venkatesh.

*with further interest @ 18% p.a. as applicable, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc incurred till the date of payment and / or realization. If the said Borrower (s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) fail to make payment to **HDFC Bank Limited** as aforesaid, then **HDFC Bank Limited** shall proceed against the above Secured Asset / Immovable Property under Section 13 (4) of the said Act and the applicable Rules entirely at the risk of the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) as to the costs and consequences.

The said Borrower (s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) are prohibited under the said Act to transfer the aforesaid Secured Asset / Immovable Property, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of **HDFC Bank Limited**. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the Act or Rules made thereunder shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Date : 14.01.2024
Place: Bangalore

For HDFC Bank Ltd.
Sd/- Authorized Officer of HDFC Bank Ltd. under SARFAESI Act, 2002

17% rise in consolidated net profit of Avenue Supermarts, which owns and operates retail chain D-Mart, to ₹690.41 crore for Q3FY24.

'Reducing dependence on imported coal priority of govt'

Construction of Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor will ensure adequate supply: Coal secy

AMID coal shortage in 2022, the government struggled to ensure adequate supplies to power companies, necessitating supply curbs to other sectors. However, 2023 turned out to be a good year for coal production, with output rising 12.33% to 702.50 MT during 2023-24 (till Jan 6, 2024). Coal ministry has achieved 70% of its annual target in nine months. **Rakesh Kumar** of *The New Indian Express* caught up with coal secretary **Amrit Lal Meena** to discuss coal availability amid surge in power demand, dealing with transportation bottlenecks and exploring new markets for imports. Edited excerpts:

India aims to enhance domestic production to 1.31 billion tonnes (BT) by 2024-25, and 1.5 BT by 2030. The strategy involves substituting importable coal with domestic thermal coal by March 2026

How are we placed now as far as availability of coal in the country is concerned?

The ministry's measures such as raising domestic production and promoting alternative energy sources play a pivotal role in ensuring a stable power supply. Coal output during 2023-24 (till Jan 6) is 702.50 MT. There is a 12.33% growth against production of 625.40 MT in the same period last year. We have achieved 70% of our annual target in just nine months.

In terms of supplies, 725.06 MT has been supplied in 2024 as against 653.12 MT during the same period last year, a growth of about 11.1%. Supply to the power sector for the period April 2023 to January 6, 2024, is 603.71 MT as against 558.60 MT during the same period of last year, with a growth of 8.08%.

The average daily rake availability growth in 2023-24 (up to Jan 3, 2024) is over 8% as against the same period of previous year. Supply to the non-regulated sector (NRS) for the period April 2023 to January 6, 2024, is 121.35 MT as against 94.52 MT during the same period last year, a growth of 28.38% due to availability.

Construction of the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC) by the Ministry of Railways has reduced the logistic cost and led to the development of new industrial hubs and Gati Shakti Cargo Terminals. As a result, it will contribute to ensuring that there is no shortage of coal in the country.

What measures has the ministry taken over last two years to alleviate concerns over coal shortages?

Over the last two years, to enhance coal production and reduce import dependency, the government has implemented various strategies. The launch of commercial mining on a revenue-sharing basis in 2020, incentivises production, offering rebates and liberal terms and conditions.

Introduction of MDOs (mine developers and operators), Coal India (CIL) has engaged MDOs via open global tenders to raise domestic production and reduce import dependency, has eased the supply situation. In the first phase, CIL has identified 15 MDO mine projects, out of which four have started production with a planned capacity of 57.37 MT.

CIL is implementing more and more MPT (mass production technology) in underground (UG) mines wherever feasible to enhance it to 100 MT by 2030. As of December 31, 2023, 50 captive/commercial mines are under production, out of which 32 mines are allocated to power sector, 11 to non-regulated sector and seven are allocated for sale of coal.

What are your expectations for the upcoming year, and what is the strategy for coal in India?

India aims to enhance domestic production to 1.31 billion tonnes (BT) by 2024-25, and 1.5 BT by 2030. The strategy involves substituting importable coal with domestic thermal coal by March 2026, tripling output from underground mines by 2028, and exploring cleaner coal technologies.

India plans to diversify its energy portfolio with a focus on renewable sources, in line with the goal of achieving a sustainable and secure energy future. Despite this, coal is expected to remain a significant part of India's energy mix, with the draft Economic Survey 2021-22 projecting coal demand to rise by 63% to 1.3-1.5 BT by 2030. The government had set up an expert group to guide investments in the sector, and coal consumption is likely to peak between 2035 and 2040.

Could you give an overview of current situation regarding coal imports?

Reducing dependence on imported coal is a key priority for the government, driven by economic and strategic considerations. Comparing the quantity of coal imported during 2023-24 from April-October is 151.25 MT whereas quantity of coal imported during same period last year (2022-23) is 148.99 MT.

However, in value terms, the price of imported coal during 2023-24 from April-October 2023 is ₹1,76 lakh crore whereas the price of imported coal during same period previous year (2022-23) was ₹2.56 lakh crore. While imports have remained relatively constant, at 237.67 MT in 2023 as against 217.78 MT in 2014-15, the share of imported coal in total consumption has fallen from 26% in 2019-20 to 21%.

There have been reports suggesting that India is considering importing inflated coal from overseas...

We do not have information suggesting that the government is considering importing coal at an inflated price from overseas. As per the current import policy, coal is categorised under Open General License (OGL), allowing consumers to import coal from their preferred sources at contractual prices, subject to the payment of applicable duties.

Can you provide update on the status of coal gasification efforts in the country and highlight the milestones achieved thus far?

The government has set a target to achieve coal gasification of 100 MT by FY30 and has launched the National Coal Gasification Mission to cut sreliance on import of natural gas, methanol, ammonia, and other essential products. CIL has signed MOUs with BHEL, GAIL, and IOCL to undertake coal gasification projects.

Currently, India imports about 50% of its natural gas, over 90% of its methanol consumption, and about 13-15% of its ammonia consumption to meet domestic demand. To promote coal gasification, the ministry has formulated a policy wherein a provision has been made for a 50% rebate in revenue share for all future commercial block auctions for coal used in gasification purposes, provided the quantity used for gasification is at least 10% of the total coal production.

Considering the current reliance on coal, what are your thoughts on achieving the net-zero goal by 2070?

Coal PSUs have prepared a three years action plan outlining specific renewable targets. CIL, along with its subsidiaries and NLCIL, has formulated this plan with the objective of installing 7,281 MW of renewable energy by 2027, in alignment with the Prime Minister's Panchamrit commitment. Noteworthy progress has been made, with 1600 MW of renewable capacity currently operational, and an additional 1,769 MW awarded for the fiscal year.

How cost-effective is transportation of coal through Rail-Sea Rail (RSR)?

Currently, coal is being transported to Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Dadri, and Jhajhar through Rail-Sea-Rail (RSR). Though the quantity is not very high, the system has become functional. The route has increased coal transportation capacity by 5 MT. The cost-effectiveness of transportation is influenced by the involvement of railway legs. If two legs of railways are involved, it is not considered cost-effective. However, if only one leg of railways is involved, with coal going directly from the source to the port and then to the power plant, it becomes a more cost-effective option.

NEWSCOPE

Mumbai bridge spurs debate on e-way vs mass transport

GURBIR SINGH

THERE was much excitement among Mumbaikars this weekend as they celebrated the completion of the 22-kilometer Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL). It was a marathon. The longest bridge in India was finally thrown open by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday, 7 years after he laid its foundation stone in 2016. With all the time overruns, it has cost a whopping Rs 18,000 crore.

The bridge will link the island city of Mumbai with the mainland at Nhava Sheva. Besides reducing travel time for long-distance commuters, it is expected to speed up the urbanisation of semi-rural enclaves around Mumbai, while helping decongest the island city.

The Prime Minister's Mumbai visit also flagged off a major push for improving transport infrastructure in this hopelessly crowded city. Among other things, he laid the foundation stone for an ambitious 9-kilometer, Rs 8,000-crore tunnel that will link the arterial harbour road to Mumbai's extreme southern point of Colaba.

Road network gallops

Since the NDA government took over in 2014, development of transport infrastructure has been a priority, and rightly so. Government data till October 31, last year showed the total length of national highways in the country is about 146,145 km against 91,287 km as of March 31, 2014, a robust increase of 60%. This compares well even with the China's galloping growth of 169,100 kilometers by end 2021, which expanded 1.6 times from 65,055 kilometers in 2009.

India's road network too is the second highest in the world after the US. In comparison, India has 6.3 million kilometres of roads to China's 5.3 million by the end of 2021.

India has done well in basic connectivity. However, the quality of roads and transportation is poor. Most roads are of two-lane configuration and in terrible shape, thereby prone to creating congestion. More important, policy is weighed in favour of passenger cars over mass, rapid public transportation.

A recent survey published last October showed 85% of Indian commuters using public transport faced serious problems and felt it was inadequate. The survey conducted by Tummoc, a public transit app, covering 50,000 commuters spread over 21 cities, revealed that as many as 44% felt there was heavy over-crowding; and 28% felt harrowed because of unreliable timings. Poorly maintained transport was another big issue among respondents.

Growing passenger vehicle sales of four and two-wheelers show increasing middle-class

SOURAV ROY

affluence. Fiscal 2023 saw booming sales of 3.9 million units, an increase of 27% over the previous year. For the current fiscal and beyond, car pundits are telling us the growth will moderate, but we will still see 6-8% more cars and two-wheelers being added on over the next two years.

Skew towards cars

While these are important signals of growth at the top, mass transportation – buses, and suburban rail services, receive little attention and money. The skew against use of public transport has in fact gotten worse over the years in inverse proportion to the auto boom. Compared to the 60-80% of passenger trips across major cities accounted for by public transport in 1994, by 2020, the share of public transport use had fallen to about 35%.

An A.T. Kerney report on urban transportation had concluded that in most cities, the size of municipal and private bus fleets had remained flat or even turned negative. No prizes for guessing who is pushing the case of private, car transportation! The auto companies' PR machinery is entirely geared to marketing the comforts and advantage of personnel ownership of cars.

Yet progressive city planning the world over has proven that good bus connectivity is the answer to both commuter comfort and last-mile connectivity. Despite the data, Mumbai's famed BEST municipalized fleet has depleted from nearly 4,500 buses 5 years ago to currently around 3,100, much to the chagrin of lakhs of harrowed commuters.

In terms of congestion, a back-of-the-envelope calculation shows one bus-full of commuters takes 20 cars off the streets. An efficient and comfortable suburban rail and bus network will incentivize thousands of car-commuters to park at home and switch to public transport.

The growth of road networks too is skewed towards high-speed corridors and the 'car culture'. There has been a near 10-fold increase in the length of high speed corridors from 353 km in 2014 to 3,106 km in 2023; and another 9,000 km of access controlled corridors are under various stages of implementation. Capital expenditure on building roads has increased nearly 5 times from Rs. 51,204 crore in 2013-14 to Rs. 2,41,028 crore in 2022-23.

No one can grudge this. But there has to be a parallel spread of funds to repair and develop crumbling roads in backward areas and urban interiors to ease the travel pains of ordinary people.

Let's sample Mumbai's 22-km trans-harbour link. To use the hassle-free bridge, a one-way ticket costs Rs 250. How many rural folk entering Mumbai can afford the luxury by choice? Or, then is it only for the sports-car-zipping glitterati?

From a functional point of view, as Mumbai's retired think-tank policeman P.S. Pasricha commented: What is the point of speeding across the harbour bridge in 20 minutes, and then getting stuck for hours at the Mumbai end in pot-holed, bumper-to-bumper traffic? What is required is a new vision that will give priority to clean and safe public transportation over private, car traffic.

Tata Consumer ups F&B game with ₹7K cr acquisition

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

TATA CONSUMER PRODUCT LTD has upped its food and beverages game with the acquisition of Capital Foods and Organic India at a cumulative price of ₹7,000 crore.

Tatas bought Capital Foods at an enterprise value of ₹5,100 crore, while Organic India, a wellness brand from Fab India group, at an enterprise value of ₹1,700 crore.

The acquisitions will be financed through a combination of cash reserves available with the company, debt and equity issuance through rights Issue or any other modes. Both the acquisitions are likely to be completed by March-end.

TCPL says that the two acquisitions have massive potential to drive synergies by leveraging Tata Consumer's distribution network, increasing scale along with scope to deliver significant operating

efficiencies. The company says that the acquisitions would add strong complementarity to its F&B (Food and Beverages) platforms and fill gaps in its product portfolio.

As per the Tata Group company, both Capital Foods and Organic India have strong portfolio of high margin products which could improve gross and EBIDTA margins of TCPL in the near-to-medium term. Capital Foods has strong umbrella platform brands with a portfolio of unique products for in-home consumption in fast growing categories. Ching's Secret is a market leader in Desi Chinese across its product categories - Chutneys, blended masalas, sauces and soups. Smith & Jones is a fast-growing brand catering to in-home cooking of Italian and other western cuisines. The overall size of the categories in which Capital Foods operates in is estimated at ₹21,400 crore.

As for Organic India, TCPL says its organic brand of F&B and herbal supplements products caters to booming, highly fragmented ₹82,000 crore market. Products of Organic India have omni-channel presence across GT (general trade) stores, e-comm platforms, own website and exports. Organic India is Rs 350 crore plus brand with high quality products focused on "sustainable living". The products have high gross margins of 55% and above.

64 IT, electronics items allowed for parallel testing

RAKESH KUMAR @ New Delhi

AFTER mobile phones, headphones, and laptops; the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has allowed all 64 products under electronics and IT goods for parallel testing.

In a notification, national standards body said all product categories under the Electronics and IT Goods (Requirements of Compulsory Registration Order), 2021, are now eligible for parallel testing.

Currently, original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) are required to submit new electronics items such as mobile phones, laptops, TVs, or headphones to BIS certified labs for testing to ensure conformity with Indian safety standards. This testing process takes four-six weeks for each products. With parallel testing, BIS can simultaneously test all components, whereas currently, there is a provision for a sequential testing process.

Business & Beyond

Vedanta's 'Project Panchhi' to empower girls from socio-economically disadvantaged communities

Jharsuguda, Odisha: Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest producer of aluminium, launched third phase of Project Panchhi in Jharsuguda, Odisha. Conceptualized under the visionary leadership of Vedanta's Chairman, Mr. Anil Agarwal,Project Panchhi is its innovative corporate recruitment drive which aims to employ 1,000 girls from economically backward communities, across its diverse businesses in metals, mining, oil & gas situated pan-India. The target demography of this drive is girls from lower income families who are likely to opt out of pursuing further studies and a fulfilling career, owing to financial and social constraints. As part of the third phase of the project in Jharsuguda, 45 young girls have been identified for recruitment.

MoU worth ₹30,000+ crore signed during Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2024

In a historic move, the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways (MoPSW) has launched a transformative infrastructure development initiative aligned with the 2047 Vision. Signifying a new era for Deendayal Port Authority (DPA), Kandla, a monumental ₹10,000 crore MoU has been inked between DPA, Kandla, and Umeandus Technologies India. This strategic partnership aims at revolutionizing transportation and logistics infrastructure, focusing on handling bulk, break-bulk, and container cargo. The project is set to elevate the port's capacity to an impressive 300 million metric tons or beyond, ensuring both commercial viability and environmental sustainability. This endeavour is poised to generate employment for a significant workforce, providing jobs for at least 1,000 skilled and non-skilled staff, along with 10,000 during the construction phase.

Vedanta Aluminium joins International Aluminium Institute (IAI)

Bhubaneswar: Vedanta Aluminium, among the world's largest producers of aluminium - has become the newest member of the International Aluminium Institute (IAI). The International Aluminium Institute is the only body representing the global primary aluminium industry. Vedanta Aluminium is also India's largest producer of the metal, manufacturing 2.29 million tonnes of aluminium in FY23, nearly 60% of the nation's aluminium. This places the company among the world's top 10 biggest producers of the metal, widely acknowledged as the 'metal of the future' for enabling the world's energy transition while supporting key engineering technologies and sustainable applications. Vedanta Aluminium operates in markets across the globe with customers in over60 countries.

Satwik-Chirag one step away from title

Asian Games gold medallists Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty on Saturday beat world champions Korean pair of Seo Seung Jae and Kang Min Hyukdished in straight games to advance to the Malaysia Open Super 1000 men's doubles final in their first tournament of the season.

Gulmarg in December 2022

In January 2024

Slopes of Solang valley near Manali last winter

In January 2024

With climate change leading to reduced snowfall, **Indraneel Das** takes a look at how winter sports in India are affected, what can be done to tackle it and more...

LOSING WINTERLAND

Auli in Uttarakhand

PICS - PTI/SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

THE skiing slopes are barren. Instead of pristine white, there is barren brown. There are no signs of snow for the next few days. And looking on worryingly are India's Winter Olympians.

As if they did not already face enough challenges in a country that routinely ignores its winter sports, India's Winter Olympians have a new foe to contend with — climate change. A few winter sport athletes, who can handle the cost, have decided to move to better conditions in Europe and Asia. But the unfortunate majority are still waiting, their eyes locked on the heavens. There is not enough snow in three of India's elite winter sports venues: Gulmarg in Kashmir, Solang Valley in Himachal Pradesh and Auli in Uttarakhand. In fact, for a place like Gulmarg, this has been one of the worst years — in terms of snow — in recent times.

Gulmarg is postcardish. It has been bestowed with exceptional beauty, especially in the winters when it is usually draped in snow. The white slopes can be thrilling as well as captivating. For adventure seekers, it's a dream destination that provides adrenaline rush during the day and unusual calm in the night. But without its white cover, Gulmarg loses quite a bit of that ethereal quality. For Rauf Tramboo, president of the Winter Games Association of Jammu and Kashmir, this year has been torrid not just for the sport but also for the economy of the region. "There is 30 percent occupancy as against more than 100 per cent last year," he said.

Sunday Special

One of India's largest winter sport events, the Khelo India Winter Games, is facing an unexpected postponement due to the lack of snow in Gulmarg, the town that hosted the Games for the last three years. "We have been hosting the Khelo India Winter Sports for the last three years and this year too, we were planning to host the fourth chapter in February. In fact, we had declared our dates between February 2 to 6. Because there is a delay in the snowfall, we foresee that we may not be able to hold these competitions," said Tramboo, who is also the competition manager of the event. "In our recent meetings with the Sports Authority of India and the sports ministry and the federation and our associations, we have addressed these problems. This was done after we got inputs from the meteorological departments across J&K and the Centre. We are not sure if we will get adequate snowfall for these Games till the third or fourth week of January. If everything goes well as per our inputs, we are expecting good snowfall between February 10-15 so we may be able to hold the Games in the middle of February. We usually get snowfall in December and January but unfortunately, that has not been the case this time. The other thing that we were discussing is the general sport. The last three years, after the Covid, recreational tourism in the region started looking up. Because of Covid, when there were restrictions on travel abroad, Indian skiers started diverting their attention to Gulmarg. Once they were here and other regions like Pahalgam, they saw that the snow was at par with Europe. For recreational sports also, the years from 2021 to 2023 saw a boom. But now snow has played spoilsport and because of the uncertainty, they have rescheduled their timing to Gulmarg or diverted it to some other place in Europe. It is a total loss for the economy, especially with skiing teachers and other people associated with the sport who are, at the moment, idle," he added.

Many venues across the world are increasingly starting to opt for artificial snow. But for Gulmarg, this is not an option. "Because of the lack of water in the region, creating artificial snow would not be ideal but there are other options. We can check other facilities where snow is available. In Kashmir, we have a lot of snow and I am sure the government will help as always in finding the right solution. We may have to look into other parts of the region."

Thousand of miles away from Gulmarg, Auli in Uttarakhand too is facing the same problem. Ajay Bhatt, who has been associated with the sport for more than two decades is based out of Auli. He calls this an "extraordinary situation". "It had never been so bad," said Bhatt, the joint secretary of the Uttarakhand Winter Games Association. "I can't say that there is no snowfall here as it had snowed first on December 13 and there had been about one foot or so on the slopes. Even now on the higher ranges, there is snow. But it's less. And in January (10) as of now, there is no snowfall. But we are expecting it soon."

Bhatt has a solution. He said since the region experiences low temperatures from December and the temperature goes down below zero there is potential to create artificial snow. He said that if the government takes the step, artificial snow could be created. This will help not only the skiers but the local economy as well. "Even now, the temperature is conducive enough to create artificial snow," he said. "In Auli, from December onwards the dry cold temperature plummets low enough to create snow, especially at night. The Auli slope is over 1300m. Even if we don't cover the entire stretch, at least we can create snow for 300m-400m. For tourists, this can be conducive."

Bhatt also says that creating artificial snow in Auli will not cause many environmental issues. "We have water and we will tap the same water from the source and the same water will get soaked into the ground and will be carried to the stream downhill," he said. He feels the government should carry out proper studies before implementing. "I think the government can form a small team and send them abroad to see how it's done. We don't have the knowledge here right now so we have to study. Or you can call experts from abroad and check the feasibility."

Nestled between Gulmarg and Auli is Solang Valley aka Solang Nala. The story here is one of remorse and worry. The slopes are barren and brown at the moment (there was snow early January). There is no skiing. The serious skiers have left for Europe or Kazakhstan where there is a visa on arrival for Indians. Ludar Thakur, president of Himachal Pradesh Winter Games Association, is crestfallen. "This time, there is late snowfall," he said. "Even if there is snowfall, it's not like it used to be 10 years ago. Earlier there used to be 2 metres of snow. This time everything is brown."

Thakur pointed out that the players are getting affected. "Some of the skiers have gone to Europe while some have left for Kazakhstan where there is a visa on arrival for Indians. And the rest of them, who cannot afford international stints, are still waiting for the snow. It's expensive to go abroad and since there is hardly any funding from the government, they have to fend for themselves."

QUICK TAKE

SHIVA KESHAVAN, six-time Olympian and ski and skateboard ad-hoc committee chairperson, is also part of the coordination commission with the Olympic Council of Asia for Asian Winter Games. An interview...

Climate change and how it's impacting winter sport

Climate change is alarming not just for the conduct of the competition but because the shorter winter season means players get less time to prepare and train. It is also a challenge for us. When you have the international race calendar you need time to prepare in advance. Our athletes already face issues in terms of availability of training venues; this becomes an added complication.

Countering challenges

It's a very worrying time for winter sports in general. Climate Change is an existential threat to the Winter Sports industry. It is also a threat to hundreds and thousands of persons who depend on these industries for their livelihood. I think steps must be taken to plan on how we can mitigate these challenges. There are ways in which by proper management and planning and grooming the slopes with artificially made snow we will be able to minimise such challenges.

How can this be tackled?

There are solutions. As it is a global problem there are solutions all around the world. One of the common practices especially for snow sports that has been in practice for decades in Europe, North America and China. Make snow through snowmaking canons. These are something where natural water is pushed through a compressor to make ice and then shot out through canons as snow. By making snow during the colder period like in the night time, you are able to have enough stockpile which can be groomed the slopes. This is a simple solution. There are other ways through which we can mitigate the challenges: through technology, long term planning and there are definitely solutions. Don't see much environmental issues here. Making snow requires water which is available in most of the Winter Sports destinations. The water will go back to the water table. Of course you need electricity. The machineries are simple and can be made in India. It is beneficial to everybody.

World too is not enough

It was just a few months ago when International Olympic Committee president Thomas Bach had talked about such predicaments during an interaction in Mumbai. "Climate Change has already had an effect on the sport and in particular, winter sports, where the lack of snow is already leading to shifting sports indoors," he had said days before the IOC Congress in October. "It is a serious threat."

The Olympic Winter Games and Paralympic Winter Games are heavily dependent on weather. The temperature needs to be below freezing point with a lot of precipitation to assist good snowfall that will lead to a long-lasting snowpack. "What is good snowfall? I would say two-three days of good snowfall that would lead to at least four-five feet of snow on the upper reaches of the mountain," explained Shiva Keshavan, six-time Winter Olympian. "This snow can be groomed into skiing slopes."

Even that seems missing the world over, including in India. The future looks bleak too. Daniel Scott, University Research Chair and Professor, who has been studying the Winter Olympics amid changing weather patterns, shared his research that was referred to by the IOC while deferring the future hosts of the Winter Games. According to the study, since the first 1924 Winter Olympics, the temperature has been rising steadily across most Winter Olympic Games venues. The study said that weather and snow conditions have been key determinants in the success of the Games. "A review of the official post-Games reports (1924–2010) from the host Organizing Committees to the International Olympic Committee (IOC), highlights poor weather as one of the greatest challenges faced by organizing committees. Organizers in the Sarajevo (Yugoslavia) report (1984, p. 15), "not even superhuman efforts could conquer nature", which was similarly echoed in the Vancouver (Canada) report (2010, p. 5), "... the warmest weather on record ... challenged our ability to prepare fields of play for athletes in the venues at Cypress Mountains". Interestingly, in 1924, there were about 16 medal sports that were played outdoors on natural snow. In 2022, there were events held indoors (refrigerated tracks and climate control halls) as well as outdoors but on 100 per cent artificial snow. Sochi, in 2014, had used 80 per cent artificial snow and going by the trend there will be more artificial snow in the future.

The study also detailed how temperature has been rising steadily since the first Winter Games were held. And the story is indeed alarming. "Analysis of historic average weather conditions revealed that during the era of emergent adaptation (1920s–1950s), the average maximum daily temperature of host cities was 0.4°C (Rutty et al., 2015). This average daily maximum temperature increased to 3.1°C during the technological transition era (1960s to 1990s) and further increased to 7.8°C in the games held so far in the twenty-first century (2002–2014)," said the study titled "The changing geography of the Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games in a warmer world".

With rising temperature and weather pattern disturbances, we are staring at inevitability: lack of snow, barren mountain slope, low precipitation that also has an adverse effect on the economy. The Winter Paralympics that are usually held in March is the most vulnerable because according to Scott's study, by that period, the temperature is above freezing point. "In the 2050s, the number of climate reliable locations will decrease to 13 in the low-emission scenario and 12 in the high-emission scenario." Scott and his team also studied the making of artificial snow and it all depends how we adapt to it.

Winter Sports may not be like in Europe or the US or even some parts of north Asia, but India, of late, has been trying to promote the sport. Whether they have been successful or not will be known in the next few decades but there definitely have been a mushrooming of winter sports national federations. The Winter Olympic dream is vivid but, clichéd it may sound, the slopes though are empty.

KOHLI RETURNS

After a resounding victory in Mohali, India move to Indore for the second T20I against Afghanistan. A look...

EYE ON SENIORS: Virat Kohli has joined the team and will feature in the second T20I. All the focus will be on him and Rohit Sharma, who was run out off the very first ball he faced in the opener. The duo has two games to show they can adapt and play the way the youngsters have in their absence.

JITESH'S SUCCESS CONTINUES: Even as the likes of KL Rahul and Sanju Samson are pushing for a place as a keeper in the T20I XI, Jitesh Sharma has grown from strength to strength with his impact cameos. In the first game, he continued the same, smashing a 20-ball 31 at a time when they needed the momentum to get going.

India vs Afghanistan, 2nd T20I, Indore / Live on JioCinema and Sports18, 7 PM

EXPRESS READ

Vijayveer secures India's 17th Paris quota

JAKARTA: India's Vijayveer Sidhu clinched a 17th Paris Games quota place for the country while clinching a silver medal in the men's 25m rapid-fire event at the Asia Olympic Qualifiers. The 21-year-old team bronze-medallist at the Hangzhou, joins senior country-mate Anish Bhanwala in securing a Paris berth in the 25m rapid fire.

India go down 0-1 to USA in Olympic Qualifiers

RANCHI: A profligate Indian team squandered chances to lose 0-1 to United States of America in their opening match of the FIH Women's Olympic Qualifiers. Ranked sixth in the world, India dominated the possession and created numerous chances, including as many as seven penalty corners, but failed to breach the American defence.

PL: Palmer sinks Fulham to lift Chelsea gloom

LONDON: Cole Palmer fired Chelsea to a 1-0 win against Fulham on Saturday as the Blues bounced back from their League Cup embarrassment at Middlesbrough. Earlier, Carlton Morris scored a controversial goal to give Luton a 1-1 draw late on Friday.

The show begins

Novak Djokovic chases another record. Naomi Osaka's comeback. What shape will Carlos Alcaraz be in? Can Iga Swiatek do two better than in 2022? As the year's first Major rolls into view, a look at some of the storylines...

DJOKOVIC'S SUPREMACY

On January 22, 2018, the Serb was shocked by an energetic South Korean, Hyeon Chung, in straight sets. Since that Melbourne night, the Serb has remained invincible winning four titles in as many attempts. Even if the younger generation have upped their level, the 36-year-old is odds on to extend his frankly ludicrous record Down Under.

10 No of Australian Open titles Djokovic has won

GAUFF, A MAJOR WINNER

Over the last few years, Coco Gauff used to arrive at Majors as a marked woman. As a result, her losses were magnified. Not this time, though. The 19-year-old triumphed at the US Open and will now be allowed to breathe.

SWIATEK'S BURGEONING REPUTATION

For a period of time, women's tennis produced a number of winners in the biggest stage. That has partly stopped, thanks to the Pole's emergence as the answer to 'who after Serena Williams'. She has won three Majors since the beginning of 2022 but does possess a rather average record in Melbourne by her own standards. Time to correct that.

1 Swiatek has gone past the fourth round only once at Melbourne (2022 semifinals).

THE NEXT GEN IS HERE

If Djokovic continues to be the present, Carlos Alcaraz and Jannik Sinner have emerged as the answer to finally take that throne. Both players have the credentials to back their case and have relatively easier draws.

SEEDS (TOP FIVE)

Men: Novak Djokovic, Carlos Alcaraz, Daniil Medvedev, Jannik Sinner, Andrey Rublev; **Women:** Iga Swiatek, Aryna Sabalenka, Elena Rybakina, Coco Gauff, Jessica Pegula.

Live on Sony Sports Network

Mayank hundred helps Karnataka

AGENCIES @ Ahmedabad

Karnataka skipper Mayank Agarwal played a captain's knock of 109, as his side took a 64-run lead on Day 2 of their Ranji Trophy match against Gujarat on Saturday. After bundling out Gujarat for 263 on the opening day, Karnataka are 328 for five. **Select scores: Group B:** Mumbai 395 in 137.2 ovrs (Lalwani 61, Kotian 54, Avasthi 53; Reddy 5/64) vs Andhra 98/3 in 37 ovrs (Prasanth 59 batting); Kerala 419 in 113.4 ovrs (Baby 131, Kunnummal 83, Prasad 80, Prem 50; Hussain 3/82, Rahul 3/56) vs Assam 14/2 in 5 ovrs; Gujarat 264 in 88 ovrs (Kshitij 95, Umang 72; Koushik 4/49) vs Karnataka 328/5 in 90 ovrs (Samarth 60, Agarwal 109, Pandey 56; Gaja 2/43); In Agartala: TN 122/1 in 41 ovs (Vijay 50 batting; Manisankar 1/11) vs Tripura.

Despite spirited fight, India lose to Australia

VISHNU PRASAD @ Bengaluru

AT the end of the day, it was a two-goal defeat. But a match, where the script called for a merciless mauling of the rank underdogs by a vastly superior team ranked 77 places above them, instead saw a spirited and dogged fight by the team in blue. India may have lost 0-2 to Australia in the opening match of the 2023 Asian Cup at the Ahmad bin Ali Stadium in Al Rayyan on Saturday, but Igor Stimac's men left the pitch with their heads held high.

That, for fifty minutes they were on level terms with a team that beat Denmark and gave defending champions Argentina a run for their money in the 2022 World Cup, shows how far Indian football has come in the last decade. When this same fixture kicked off India's 2011 Asian Cup campaign, they had conceded three goals by halftime and only limited the damage because Australia took their foot off the pedal after a fourth.

Jackson Irvine

However, on Saturday, the stats looked a lot different after the first 45 minutes. Sure, Australia dominated throughout but India's defenders put everything on the line and limited them to just two shots on target in the first half. And it could have looked a lot better for India — in the 16th minute, Sunil Chhetri put a free header off target despite having only the Aussie keeper Matt Ryan to beat. The spell was broken in the second half when a mistake by keeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu saw Jackson Irvine score Australia's opener. Then Jordan Bos scored a second in the 73rd minute and closed off the game. However, Stimac will have a bunch of positives to take from this game. Good coaches, it is often said, succeed in moulding a team in their image and Stimac seems to have done just that, with India's defenders showing that same discipline and the willingness to put everything on the line to defend their goal, that was the Croatian's hallmark as a player. Sandesh Jhingan in particular was heroic on Saturday — the highlight being a diving header to clear a corner that left him with a bandage around his head.

Saturday's match was a historic one for Asian football as Japanese referee Yamashita Yoshimi became the first woman ever to take charge of an Asian Cup match.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

VERY LONG ROAD TO JUSTICE

March 4, 2003 First FIR filed in Gujarat against unknown accused in the Bilkis case

March 25, 2003 Judicial magistrate accepts closure report by probe agency, which claimed that the accused could not be traced

Dec 2003 Bilkis moves SC; case handed over to CBI

April 19, 2004 CBI files chargesheet against 20 accused

August 6, 2004 SC accepts Bilkis' request to transfer trial from Ahmedabad to Mumbai

January 21, 2008 Special CBI Court finds 12 accused guilty; 11 get life sentence; one dies during pendency of trial

July 2008 11 convicts challenge trial court order in Bombay HC

August 5, 2013 Bombay HC rules that after completion of trial and conviction of a case transferred from one state to another, the prisoner should be transferred to the prison of his state

July, November 2017 Bombay HC upholds life sentences against all 11 convicts

April 2019 HC orders Gujarat govt to pay Bilkis Rs 50 lakh as compensation within two weeks

July 2019 Convict Shah moves Gujarat HC challenging the non-consideration of his application for premature release. Court says Maharashtra is the appropriate govt to do so under CrPC

August 1, 2019 Shah approaches Maharashtra with same request. It begins the process of seeking opinion of all stakeholders like CBI, trial court etc

August 14, 2019 CBI recommends against lenience

January 3, 2020 Special CBI Court gives negative report

February 3, 2020 Dahod (Gujarat) SP's opinion too negative

February 19, 2020 Dahod Collector concurs with SP's view

March 13, 2020 Shah approaches Gujarat HC again; application rejected

March 2021 Special CBI Judge says the Maharashtra's 2008 remission policy would apply to the convicts, which mandates 28 years in jail

July 20, 2021 10-member Gujarat's Jail Advisory Committee holds meet. One of its members, Sessions Judge, Godhra, says premature release in the sensitive case may disturb peace. All other members recommend remission saying the convicts had completed 14 years in prison

August 18, 2021 Gujarat's ADGP, Prisons and Correctional Administration, recommends on premature relief

May 13, 2022 Shah moves SC citing Gujarat HC's order to approach Maharashtra. SC rules that Gujarat, not Maharashtra, is the appropriate govt to take the call

August 15, 2022 Gujarat govt completes paperwork rapidly, announces remission of sentence

December 2022 SC dismisses Bilkis' review petition against the May 2022 order of the top court

March 2023 Bilkis again moves SC

January 8, 2024 SC quashes its 2022 order, sends the convicts back to jail

> This is what justice feels like. I thank the honourable Supreme Court of India for giving me, my children and women everywhere this vindication and hope in the promise of equal justice for all
>
> Bilkis Bano

BILKIS BANO AND THE WHEELS OF JUSTICE

ILLUSTRATION: SOUMYADIP SINHA

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY @ New Delhi

A woman deserves respect howsoever high or low she may be otherwise considered in society or to whatever faith she may follow or any creed she may belong to. Can heinous crimes, inter alia, against women permit remission of the convicts by a reduction in their sentence and by granting them liberty?" That was how the Supreme Court framed the question on remission to 11 life convicts in the Bilkis Bano case in its preface.

In their much-applauded judgment, a two-judge bench of justices B V Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan quashed the remission and ordered the convicts back to jail. By doing so, they restored justice to Bilkis, who was gang-raped when she was 21 by zealots at the height of the post-Godhra pogrom in Gujarat in 2002. Both her mother and cousin were gang-raped and murdered as well. The cousin was assaulted though she had just delivered a baby. In all, eight minors, including Bilkis' three-year-old daughter, two minor brothers, two minor sisters and her cousin's two-day-old infant were slain. A few other relatives, too, were killed.

With the local police dragging its feet on the probe, the Supreme Court sent the case to the CBI. It also transferred the trial to Maharashtra. Both orders came after Bilkis knocked the court's door. A special CBI court subsequently sentenced the 11 convicts to life. And the Bombay High Court allowed them to serve their sentence in a Gujarat prison. While dealing with their appeal against the sentence, another bench of the Bombay High Court said, "the truth and the falsehood are mixed up in such a manner that at every stage of investigation the truth is hidden under layers of intentional laxity, omissions, contradictions and falsehood and the truth is required to be unearthed". It upheld the sentence.

As for the convicts, one of them, Radheshyam Shah, kept engaging the higher judiciary. Fortunes turned when a Supreme Court bench comprising justices Ajay Rastogi (now retired) and Vikram Nath on May 13, 2022 inexplicably turned a criminal procedure code (CrPC) provision on its head by holding that the government of the state where the offence had taken place has the jurisdiction to decide his application for remission. It flew in the face of the law that only the government of the state where the sentencing happened can take the premature release call.

Empowered by the SC order, the Gujarat government promptly began paperwork to apply its 1992 remission policy and ordered the release of all the convicts within less than three months - on August 10, 2022. By then, they had completed a little over 14 years in prison with liberal paroles and furloughs. The 1992 policy allows the release of life convicts after 14 years in jail depending on various parameters. Shah sought the application of the Gujarat policy since remission under Maharashtra's policy can be considered only after 28 years in jail.

Rastogi bench opened floodgates

The bench led by Justice Rastogi relied on a 2010 SC verdict which said the application for grant of premature release will have to be considered based on the policy that stood on the date of conviction. Applying that yardstick, the Rastogi bench said the policy on the date of conviction was a remission resolution adopted on July 9, 1992 in Gujarat.

Interestingly, the Gujarat government argued before the Rastogi bench that since the trial happened in Maharashtra, the 'appropriate government' as referred to under Section 433 of the CrPC would be the state of Maharashtra. But the bench rejected it saying though the trial was transferred to Maharashtra under exceptional circumstances, subsequently the case came back to Gujarat, which made it the appropriate government for the purpose of Section 432(7) of the CrPC.

SC raps convict

Curiously, the verdict authored by Justice Nagarathna did not name justices Ajay Rastogi and Vikram Nath while tearing their judgment apart. Instead of pointing fingers at them for taking off on a tangent, she went after Shah for concealing crucial aspects of the case before the Justice Rastogi bench and accused the convict of doing a fraud on the court. So, what information did he withhold?

Shah first went to the Gujarat High Court in 2019 challenging the non-consideration of his application for premature release. The court on July 17, 2019 asked him to seek relief from Maharashtra, which was the appropriate government for the purpose of Sections 432 and 433 of the CrPC.

Less than two weeks later, he approached the Maharashtra government for remission, citing the Gujarat HC's advice. Maharashtra began the consultation process by seeking the CBI's opinion, but it recommended no leniency. The Special CBI Court, Mumbai, too, gave a negative recommendation. Ditto, the Superintendent of Police, Dahod, Gujarat, on the ground that Bilkis and her family members apprehended harm to them if the convict is released prematurely. The Office of the Collector and District Magistrate, Dahod, concurred with the SP's opinion.

Shah again approached the Gujarat HC seeking remission but the court rejected it. The matter later went back to Special CBI Judge in Maharashtra, who said remission can be considered only on the basis of the state's 2008 policy, according to which the minimum period of imprisonment for such convicts is 28 years.

Usurpation of powers

The Rastogi bench was kept out of the loop on Maharashtra's consultation process and the opinions on the CBI and the trial court, as Shah chose not bring them up, possibly deciding against self-incrimination. The Gujarat government, too, did not appeal against the Rastogi bench's verdict, for which it got an earful from Justice Nagarathna's judgment. She saw in it Gujarat's attempt to usurp Maharashtra's powers. "The State of Gujarat failed to file a review petition seeking correction of the order of this Court dated 13.05.2022, (particularly when we have now held that the said order is a nullity). Complying with the said order can also be said to be an instance of usurpation of power when the provision, namely, clause (b) of sub-section (7) of Section 432 states otherwise."

She went on to describe it as a classic case where the order of the Rastogi bench was used for violating the rule of law while passing orders of remission in favour of the convicts by Gujarat, though it had no jurisdiction to do so. The Gujarat government acted in tandem with the convicts and was complicit with their request for early release, the verdict charged.

Order struck down

Justice Nagarathna struck down the Rastogi bench's verdict - a nullity and non est in law - since it was sought by suppression of material information and misrepresentation of facts. She described the Rastogi bench's take on the appropriate government to consider remission as per incuriam, which loosely means delivered without understanding the whole picture. With the bottom falling off the Rastogi bench's order, all proceedings based on it became null and void. Consequently, the remission was annulled.

Cell time back

With the remission struck down, should the convicts go back to jail was a question the verdict dissected at length. The convicts were in prison for a little over 14 years but had lost their right to liberty once they were convicted and imprisoned. The court said a person is entitled to protection of his liberty only in accordance with law.

"Wherever and whenever the State fails to perform its duties, the Court would step in to ensure that the rule of law prevails over the abuse of the process of law. Such abuse may result from, inter alia, inaction or even arbitrary action of protecting the true offenders or failure by different authorities in discharging statutory or other obligations in consonance with the procedural and penal statutes." It went on to say that compassion and sympathy have no role to play where the rule of law is required to be enforced. "If the rule of law has to be preserved as the essence of democracy, it is the duty of the courts to enforce the same without fear or favour, affection or ill-will," the verdict said.

Apart from Shah, the other convicts are Jaswant Chaturbhai Nai, Keshubhai Vadaniya, Bakabhai Vadaniya, Rajibhai Soni, Rameshbhai Chauhan, Shaileshbhai Bhatt, Bipin Chandra Joshi, Govindbhai Nai, Mitesh Bhatt and Pradip Modhiya. They were ordered to go back to jail in two weeks.

UNDERSTANDING THE MARATHA QUOTA DRUMBEAT BUILD-UP

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @Mumbai

IT was a call for quota that was consistently rejected by panel after panel for decades since the 1950s till one headed by a politician opened the floodgates by approving it in 2014. It, however, failed to clear legal challenges. The report of the first commission set up in 1953 and headed by Kaka Kalelkar said, "In Maharashtra, besides the Brahmin, it is the Maratha who claimed to be the ruling community in the villages, and the Prabhu, who dominated all other communities." The commission saw no merit in the demand to accord backward class status to the Maratha community. While there is no denying that large Maratha sections are poor, there is no conclusive empirical evidence yet to establish their social backwardness. At present, Maharashtra offers 52% quota - 13% for SCs, 7% for STs, 19% for OBCs, 2% for special backward classes and 11% for four sections of nomadic tribes.

Various leaders at different points in time have emerged to lead agitations demanding reservation. The latest is Manoj Jarange Patil (41), a marginalised farmer based in Sarati village in Jalna district, which is part of the drought-prone Marathwada region. From his small tin shed house, Jarange started his quota protest with support from the surrounding villagers. His Gandhian model of long fasts - in August-September and October-November - has become a political head-turner.

Jarange roadshow

Jarange had set December 24 as the deadline for the Eknath Shinde government to announce the quota, failing which he would lead an indefinite hunger strike at Azad Maidan in south Mumbai. But the government set a February timeline for a new quota bill. So, his march to Mumbai and hunger strike will start from Jalna on January 20. He claims over one crore protesters would reach Mumbai on January 24. Coming as it does ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, it can be expected to become a hot-button issue.

The protest by Jarange started in a small way away from media glare when the press was busy covering the Opposition's INDIA bloc meeting in Mumbai. Ham-handed police action against the protesters generated empathy for them and the matter snowballed, says Rajendra Kondre, a Maratha community leader who is an adept on the matter.

Jarange says reservation is a gateway for the Maratha community - mostly marginal and poor farmers - to get education in good colleges and government jobs to enhance their quality of life. "The Marathas may be the ruling caste, but the rich and affluent are less than 1% while the rest are marginalised farmers with hand-to-mouth existence. In fact, a large number of farmer suicides happen within the community," he reasons.

The social and economic pyramid, he argues, has completely changed. "People who got the benefits of reservation have improved their quality of life but dominant castes like the Maratha are suffering. We too want a share in the development pie," Jarange adds.

Kunbi-Maratha genealogy

On the request of Jarange, Chief Minister Shinde appointed the Justice Sandeep Shinde committee to study old Nizam era documents to trace the genealogy of the Maratha community. The objective is to find out whether they were Kunbi or Maratha. The reason: Kunbis got into the state's OBC list in the 1960s while Marathas couldn't. Kunbi is a Maratha clan.

The panel recently submitted its final report. "The state law and judiciary department is scrutinising the report. The Shinde committee found several references to Kunbi in the Nizam-era documents. Records of Kunbis before 1967 will help people get Kunbi certificate and avail OBC quota. The committee studied 12 government department records, including revenue, education, caste data, birth and death data, to find out how the Maratha genealogy is intertwined with the Kunbi," the chief minister told the legislative assembly a few weeks ago.

OBC Mahasangh president Babanrao Taywade says, "Justice Shinde is the not the first committee that has been tasked to establish the social and economic backwardness of the Maratha community. Two commissions appointed by the Central government and five other commissions/committees set up by the state government have already gone into the matter. Yet, nothing tangible has emerged so far that could withstand judicial scrutiny."

State discretion

A few years after the Kaka Kalelkar report, the Centre on August 14, 1961, allowed all state governments the discretion to constitute their own commissions to identify socially and educationally backward castes in their respective states and take steps for their amelioration. Shortly thereafter, the Maharashtra government appointed the B D Deshmukh commission on November 14, 1961 to identify which castes can be added to the OBC basket. The committee's report on January 11, 1964 identified 180 such castes. The Maratha community did not figure on the list but Kunbis did. Kunbis are peasants. They are part of the Maratha community's basket of clans. The Deshmukh panel let a Maratha section into the OBC list but kept others out, leading to further resentment.

Then came the Mandal Commission report - submitted in 1980 but adopted in 1990 - suggesting social engineering by carving out 27% reservation for OBCs within the Supreme Court-mandated 50% cap on quotas. The report went on to say that "Maratha is a forward Hindu caste."

Suicide and after

Before the Mandal report came into play, former Congress leader Annasaheb Patel demanded a standalone quota for the Maratha community on the grounds of economic backwardness in 1980. Two years later, he threatened to die by suicide if the reservation was not granted. When the then Congress government failed to yield, Anna shot himself with his own revolver on March 22, 1982. Ever since, more than 50 Maratha youth have ended their lives demanding reservation. The 10% reservation for the economically weaker section (EWS) announced by the Centre in 2019 was what Anna always wanted for the Marathas, analysts claim.

But then the Maratha quota appetite grew and the Maharashtra government in 1995 appointed the Khatri commission to study the Deshmukh panel's report. After an elaborate examination, the Khatri panel refused to accept Maratha as backward due to their higher representation in electoral politics and governance.

Quota ordinance

More than a decade later, the state government in 2008 constituted the Justice R M Bapat commission, which too, blocked Marathas out of the quota cake. The state government rejected the report and appointed minister Narayan Rane as head of a new quota panel. It was the Rane committee that opened the quota window for the first time by recommending special reservation to the Maratha community under Article 15(4) and 16(4) of the Constitution. Based on its report, the state government in 2014 promulgated an ordinance giving 16% reservation to the Maratha community in education and government jobs.

When the quota was challenged in the Bombay High Court, a bench stayed it citing faulty data to claim the community was backward. Around that time, the rape of a minor Maratha girl caused a major uproar, forcing the then chief minister Devendra Fadnavis to appoint Justice M G Gaikwad as chairman of the State Backward Classes Commission and tasking him with examining the Maratha quota afresh. The Gaikwad commission in its report on November 15, 2018 recommended declaring Marathas as economically backward.

Interestingly, the Bombay High Court had no problems with the Gaikwad panel's report but suggested 13% reservations to Marathas in education and 12% in government jobs instead of 16% ordered by the government.

Struck down

The matter went to the Supreme Court, which struck the quota down, adding the power to include or exclude any caste or community in the reservation list is part of the Centre's exclusive domain. "The state can only make recommendations. The final right lies with the Centre," it ruled.

Chief Minister Shinde recently announced that a special state assembly session will be called in February to discuss and pass a watertight Maratha reservation bill. In the interregnum, the State Backward Classes Commission will conduct surveys to get empirical data that can establish Maratha as a backward caste. "Once the commission submits its report, it will be approved by the cabinet and subsequently tabled in the special session of the state assembly. The Maratha community will get reservation in February while staying within the legal framework," Shinde said. The question is whether it would pass legal scrutiny.

Shinde's immediate task is to manage Jarange's mobilisation of protesters. Humongous crowds in Mumbai could pose law and order challenges. Whether or not Jarange heeds to his request to put off the rally remains to be seen.